THE

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To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IT will perhaps be thought unnecessary at this period, when the world is already furnished with such abundant evidence of the safety of the Vaccine Inoculation, and its efficacy in protecting the human constitution against the Small-pox, to advance any thing further on the subject; but having lately seen in the public papers some letters, tending to excite alarm among those who have adopted the new system of inoculation, I could not refrain from offering a few words, with a hope that they may allay any unpleasant sensations arising from this source.

Since the month of December, 1799, I have inoculated nearly three thousand persons for the Cow-pox, a very great number of whom have since been exposed to the contagion of the Small-pox, in every way that can be imagined, without its producing the smallest effect. To place this in a point of view, at once striking and within the reach of inquiry, I shall mention an inoculation which took place at a village in Wiltshire, *Burbage*, near the seat of the Earl of Ailesbury. Being there on a visit last spring, I gave a general invitation to people of all descriptions to come and be inoculated. My offer was accepted by men, women and children, to the amount of six hundred, who went through the Cow-pox in the usual mild way. Some months afterwards the village was visited by the Small-pox, which made dreadful havoc among many of those who did not avail themselves of my invitation, while those who accepted it remained secure, although there was a general intercourse between them during the whole period. Facts equally strong have been transmitted to me by a letter from my very particular friend, the Rev. Mr. Clinch, of Trinity, in Newfoundland, of which the following is an extract:

"The threads you sent me produced the desired effect, which proved a happy circumstance for this harbour. After inoculating my own family, I availed myself of the opportunity, whilst the Small-pox was making its ravages at St. John's, of visiting that

that place. Encouraged by your reprefentation, and in order to eftablifh the fact of the Cow-pox being an abfolute preventive of the Small-pox, I put my nephew (Jofeph Hart) to the moft rigid teft, by inoculating him with active variolous matter, and expofing him to a contagious atmofphere, but without its producing in either inftance the fmalleft effect on the fyftem. This fingle cafe excited the aftonifhment of every perfon within whofe knowledge it came; and moft of thofe who had not previoufly gone through the Small-pox, were eager to fhield themfelves againft that dreadful malady by adopting the Vaccine Inoculation. Juft before my arrival at St. John's, a woman was inoculated for the Small-pox, and, four days afterwards, her infant at the breaft, with the Vaccine. Both went through the refpective difeafes in the ufual way, and perfectly diftinct from each other, although the mother continued to fuckle her child the whole time. Shortly after my return to this place, the Small-pox was imported in a veffel from Quebec; one of her crew died of it. Fortunately for the inhabitants of Trinity, moft of them had been inoculated with the Cow-pox, and were thereby prepared to refift the influence of the Small-pox. Several of my Cow-pox patients attended this man during his illnefs, but efcaped the infection of his difeafe.

" It gives me great pleafure to fay that the Jennerian Inoculation is extending itfelf faft over this ifland; but one thing I lament is, the great probability of many errors being committed by perfons ignorant of the difeafe, and inexperienced in the practice of inoculation; for the people of Newfoundland are indifcriminately inoculating each other, and I fear fome of them may either not receive the infection at all, or by taking the virus at too late a period (a circumftance you fo particularly cautioned me againft) create a fpurious difeafe; and thus, under an ideal fecurity, expofe themfelves to variolous contagion, when, in fact, they have never had the fpecific preventive. I muft add that we are much indebted to the zeal and exertions of Mr. Macurdy, furgeon, of St. John's, for the rapid progrefs the Vaccine Inoculation has made in Newfoundland. Mr. Macurdy, I underftand, received his virus from Dr Jenner, through the medium of our worthy and refpected Governor, Admiral Pole."

Having in my own extenfive inoculation feen the vaccine puftule in all the varieties it affumes, I confider it as a duty I owe to humanity and fociety to anfwer any enquiries that may be made on the fubject; and if the refult of my information fhould contribute to relieve the anxiety of a parent for the fafety of a child, or remove the pain of fufpence, I fhall feel myfelf highly gratified. I am, &c.

G. C. JENNER.

No. 13, Bond Street,
April 22, 1801.

An extraordinary Caſe of Small-Pox, by THOMAS PURTON, *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.*

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

IT has been ſo generally conſidered as a fact, that a perſon once infected with the ſmall-pox is ſafe from having it a ſecond time, that I feel a conſiderable degree of diffidence in ſending you the following ſtatement of a caſe, by which it is indiſputably proved, that it is *poſſible* for the variolous infection to take place a *ſecond time* in the *ſame perſon*, and that *even* in the *natural way*.

My partner, Mr. Bloxam, a gentleman of ſound judgment, who has been eſtabliſhed forty years in a very extenſive buſineſs, and who viſited the patient with me through every ſtage of the diſeaſe, has not a doubt of the nature of the caſe; nor ſhould I have troubled you on the preſent occaſion, if my mind had not been thoroughly convinced of its accuracy.

I have been told by an elderly lady of reſpectability, that ſhe knew a perſon who certainly had had the ſmall-pox twice; and her ſtatement was ſo very accurate and circumſtantial, that it was ſufficient to ſtagger the firmeſt ſceptic; but I confeſs that my opinion remained unchanged until the following caſe came under *my own* obſervation.

The circumſtance of a perſon having the ſmall-pox a ſecond time, *from its rarity*, muſt be conſidered as a ſingular phœnomenon in pathology; therefore, I cannot perceive in what way (even if it was generally known) it can injure the cauſe of variolous inoculation; but it deciſively proves that the ſmall-pox may in a few rare caſes be received twice by the ſame perſon, and therefore it ought to be known; and this caſe deſerves more particular attention, becauſe the ſubject of it was not inoculated for the ſmall-pox, but received the diſeaſe in the caſual way on both occaſions. In the firſt attack, her mother caught the diſeaſe from her, and narrowly eſcaped with her life. The laſt time I ſaw her myſelf; and any perſon who has doubts, may be ſatisfied by inoculating with ſome of the matter, which I have preſerved.

This caſe is farther entitled to notice, becauſe no greater ſecurity againſt the ſmall-pox can be expected from the Vaccine Inoculation than from the infection of the natural ſmall-pox; therefore the preference of the cow-pox would not be invalid-

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ated by the occurrence of an occaſional caſe, in which the ſmall-pox might be caught after inoculation for the cow-pock, if ſuch an inſtance ſhould ariſe.

The ſubject of the preſent caſe is Maria Hunt, of Exhall, near this town, *aged twenty-two years*; ſhe caught the ſmall-pox when ſhe was *five months old*, and had them very violent, as the marks at this time ſufficiently teſtify.—Her mother caught the diſeaſe of her, and had it to ſo alarming a degree, that the apothecary who attended, had ſcarcely a hope of her recovery.—The mother is ſtill living, from whom I received this account, which was alſo corroborated by the teſtimony of many reſpectable neighbours.

On the 11th of March laſt, the whole village of Exhall was inoculated with variolous matter, and this young woman was appointed one of the nurſes.—On the 3d of April, ſhe was attacked with ſevere rigors, pain in the head and back, ſickneſs, and other uſual ſymptoms of an approaching fever.—The two following days ſhe was extremely ill; the fever increaſed to an alarming height, attended with delirium, through moſt part of the night previous to the appearance of the eruption, which ſhewed itſelf on the 6th of April, early in the morning. The eruption continued to increaſe for ſeveral days; her throat became ſore, with a ſenſe of fullneſs, from the number of puſules covering the fauces; and they continued filling till they were completely maturated.—About the 9th day from the appearance of the eruption, thoſe upon her face began to turn, and in a few days after, thoſe upon the reſt of her body.

I never thought of taking any matter till the thinner contents of the puſtules were nearly abſorbed; but, however, I have obtained a very ſufficient quantity, part of which I will ſend to you, or any gentleman who wiſhes for farther confirmation, to make trial of it.

The above is a juſt detail of this extraordinary caſe, which I leave to medical men to make their own comments upon.

I am, &c.

Alceſter, April 17, 1801. T. PURTON.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Live in a remote part of the country, where acceſs to libraries, either public or private, is not very frequent; and the price, the ſhameleſs price, of new books now driving them out

out of the reach of ordinary purſes, I have been obliged for years paſt to ſatisfy my literary curioſity chiefly with Reviews, Journals, and the like, which I fear, for the ſame reaſon, will ſoon be out of my reach too. A year or two ago I ſaw Speculations on Generation mentioned in the Reviews with ſome praiſe; and as the book was ſaid to overthrow the generally received theory, and to point out a new one, and as the price did not put it out of my reach, I purchaſed a copy of it. It was written by a Dr. Couper; and though I receive the ſtatements and conjectures of medical men with much heſitation and allowance, the Doctor's ingenuity, at leaſt, muſt be admitted. He ſets off with a furious attack on the long eſtabliſhed theory; and I cannot help going along with ſome of the Reviewers, who unequivocally admit his complete ſucceſs in overthrowing it; and he muſt be a hardy writer or Profeſſor, indeed, who, after ſuch an elucidation, will perſevere in promulgating the old doctrines.

With reſpect to the new idea of generation, which Doctor Couper has thrown out, but which, to do him juſtice, he does not affect to have by any means eſtabliſhed, it wears as plauſible a face as moſt theories; and, as he ſays, may in time, and in better hands, be as well worth the acknowledging as the beſt of them. He alleges, that the ſemen is abſorbed by the vagina, which is peculiarly conſtructed for this very purpoſe; that it is thus thrown into the general circulation, impregnating the whole maſs; the reſult of which, like other functions for other ends, is determined to the ovaria. This he conſiders probable from the powerful effects of the ſemen reſorbed by the male; from its effects on the female when impregnation does not take place, as well as when it has taken place; and from a multitude of appearances and circumſtances which I ſhall not occupy more of your room with; but which, whether the theory be followed up and become uſeleſs, or whether it ſhall ſink into obſcurity, like many a theory before it, will evince no little attention and ingenuity in the author.

Why I have taken upon me to mention this book in your uſeful work is, neither to attack nor defend it, but merely to obſerve that, ſince its publication, I have ſeen and heard of different theories of generation, the authors of which would not have been loſers by a peruſal of it.

I am, your's, &c.

AMICUS.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following are the Cafes I promifed in the laft Number:

JAMES RICE, aged 18, was admitted the 31ft of May, 1800; he had great fever, cough troublefome, breath very fhort; I gave him, viz. ℞. pulv. ipecac. ℈j. s. s. oxy. fcillæ, ℥j. capt. coch. j. parv. fæpe urgenti tuffe, infus. amar. ℔. j. capt. poculo bis die. I was taken ill myfelf this day, therefore faw him no more for feveral weeks, as my bufinefs was turned over to another perfon until I was well; but, upon ftrict enquiry afterwards, I found he began to fwell from that time in his legs, abdomen, &c. with great pain, and little or no urine; every fymptom feemed gradually to increafe, until he was fuppofed to be in a dying ftate, therefore the medical attendance was defifted from until the 25th of July, when his mother applied to me again. I found him with a general dropfy, and very much emaciated; the ftomach, abdomen, and lower extremities extremely diftended; the penis and fcrotum in proportion; could reft only in an erect pofition, making only a tea cup full of turbid urine in twenty-four hours. I then gave him, ℞. Pulv. fol. digital. g. j. pulv. aromat. g. iv. pulv. glycirrh. g. xv. ft. pulv. capt. j. ter die. 26th. I found a diarrhœa had came on in the morning, and he felt himfelf extremely weak; I gave him opii. g. jfs. and punctured the penis and fcrotum. 28th. Symptoms nearly the fame; rept. pulv. digital. ut antea. Aug. 1ft. The diarrhœa ftill continues; had fome intervals of fleep, makes rather more urine, the penis and fcrotum quite evacuated; Rept. pulv. digital. cum opio. j. ¼, in fing. ch. 2d. Has had fome fleep in the night, and much freer from pain; the diarrhœa moderated, makes a pint of urine in twenty-four hours; Rept. pulv. digital. e opii ut antea. 5th. Much eafier, makes more urine, the cough troublefome; Rept. pulv. ut ultimo. 8th. Diarrhœa abated, cough lefs, the fwellings generally abated, makes two pints of urine in twenty-four hours; Rept. pulv. ut ultimo. 11th. Every fymptom much abated, urine plentiful, was able to lie down and have fome refrefhing fleep, walked out a little; Rept. pulv. ut ultimo et poculo decoct. cinchonæ bis die. 15th. Continued much better, left off his powders gradually, and continued the decoct. cinchonæ until the 18th of Auguft, when he was difcharged perfectly cured.

ELIZ. REYNOLDS, aged 50, was admitted Auguft 15, 1800, with

with anafarca and afcites, and had been long ill with cough and other hectic fymptoms, alfo very much in pain; made very little urine; breath very fhort. I gave her pulv. digital. e opii ut (Rice) ter die. 16th. Nearly the fame. 18th. Rather more urine; Rept. pulv. ut antea. 19th. Ditto. 20th. Very much in pain; ℞. Gamb. g. iij. crem. tart. ℥j. M. ft. et divid. in dofæ ij. capt. j. ftatim et rept. h. s. si. opus fuerit. 21ft. Both powders were taken, but produced no effect; vomited water at times; ℞. Pulv. fcillæ g. vj. opii g. iij. cons. q. s. ft. pil. No. vj. capt. j. 4tis horis. 22d. Had taken all the pills, but no effect; pain and ficknefs ftill continue, rather more urine, the abdomen, &c. very much diftended, breath very fhort; gave her infus. digital. ℥viifs. fpirit. æth. nitrofæ ℥fs. tinct. opii gt. 60, ft. mift. capt. coch. ij. ampla 4tis horis. 23d. Every fymptom the fame. I performed paracentefis, and drawed off twenty-three pints of water, and fhe died the next day.

Sarah Richards, aged 36, was admitted October 16, 1801, with anafarca and afcites, and general marks of debility, and had lately lain-in; urine very fcanty. I gave her, ℞. Pulv. digital. gr. j. pulv. aromat. g. iv. pulv. glycerrh. g. xv. ft. pulv. ter die fum. 18th. Nearly the fame; Rept. pulv. ut antea. 20th. Ditto; ℞. pulv. fcillæ calomel pp. aa. g. vi. cons. q. s. ft. pil. No. iv. h. s. s. 22d. Had fome watery ftools; fwellings rather loofened, and makes rather more urine. 25. Legs lefs fwelled, and makes more urine. 27. Ditto. 31. Ditto. Rep. pil. calomel et fcillæ h. s. s. Nov. 1. Continues mending; had feveral watery ftools, and made more urine; fwelling confiderably decreafed. 3. A diarrhœa came on; fwelling of the legs much lefs, urine plentiful. Repet. pulv. ut antea bis die, et poculo decoct. cinchonæ bis die. 6. Swelling nearly gone. Rep. pulv. et decoct. 12. Continued mending, and the 20th was difcharged cured.

Esther Shalswell, aged 55, was admitted October 23, 1800, with anafarca; legs much fwelled, and in pain, with fome degree of inflammation. I gave her ℞. Pulv. digital. &c. ut (Richards). 24th. Nearly the fame; Rept. pulv. ut antea. 27th. The fkin rather loofer; made rather more urine. 29th. A diarrhœa came on, and made more urine; Rept. pulv. ut antea. 31ft. Swelling much lefs, makes plentiful urine. Nov. 1ft. Ditto. 3d. Ditto. 12th. Swelling quite gone; gave her decoct. cinchonæ, and was difcharged the 15th cured.

William Turner, aged 84, was admitted July 26, 1800, with hydrothorax, &c. Of a fpare habit of body, had not lain down in bed for above feven years, always fat perfectly erect in his chair; legs much fwelled, breath fhort, dry cough, urine very fcanty; gave him Pulv. digital, &c. ut (Richards) ter die.

28th.

28th. Rather more urine. 30th. Ditto. August 1ſt. Rather coſtive; ℞. Pulv. crem. tart. g. x. pulv. jalap ℈j. ft. pulv. s. s. 4th. More open, and rather more urine; Rept. pulv. digital. ut ult. 5th. Symptoms nearly the ſame; Rept. pulv. cath. ut antea. 6th. A diarrhœa came on in the evening; he went up ſtairs to call his wife, ſat himſelf down on the foot of the bed at eleven o'clock, fell faſt aſleep, and fell backwards on the bed, and ſlept quietly until three the next morning, when he awoke frightened. 8th. Continued open, made conſiderable quantity of water; Rept. pulv. ut antea. 12th. Diarrhœa continued very troubleſome, but made plentiful urine; ℞. Pulv. creta. comp. e opii ℈j. ft. pulv. ter die. 14th. Swelling much leſs, griping troubleſome; ℞. Pulv. rhab. ℈j. ft. pulv. s. s. Rept. pulv. digital. ut antea; urine plentiful. 18th. Swelling much leſs, cough and other ſymptoms much abated; Rept. pulv. rhab. et pulv. digital. ut antea. He went to bed regularly, and ſlept well. 22d. Pain and griping troubleſome, gave him ℞. opii crud. g. ij. acid. nitros ʒij. aq. font. ℥ij. ft. gutt. capt. coch. j. parv. 4tis horis. 27th. Every ſymptom much abated. urine plentiful; Rept. pulv. digital. ut antea cum infus. amar. until the 1ſt of September, when he was diſcharged cured.

ANN RICE, (mother to James Rice) aged 56, was admitted Jan. 3, 1801, with anaſarca and aſcites; makes a pint of water in twenty-four hours; dry cough, breath ſhort. ℞. Pil. ſcillæ cum calomel et pulv. digital. &c. ut (Richards). 5. Had ſome watery ſtools; other ſymptoms nearly the ſame. ℞. Pulv. jalap ℈j. crem tart. g. x. ft. pulv. s. s. 6. Nearly the ſame. Rep. pulv. digital ut antea. 9. Ditto. 12. Swelling much leſs, urine plentiful. Rep. pulv. digital. ut antea et decoct. cinch. bis die. 20. Continued the digital. et cinch. until the 30th, and was diſcharged cured.

HANNAH MORRESS, aged 46, was admitted Jan. 20, 1801, with aſcites, the abdomen much ſwelled, and greatly in pain; urine ſcanty. ℞. Pil. ſcillæ et calomel ut (Richards) et pulv. digital. &c. ter die. 22. Had ſeveral looſe ſtools, made rather more urine. Rep. pulv. digital. et infus. amar. 24. Urine more plentiful, cough troubleſome. 27. Symptoms much abated. Rep. pulv. et infus. alſo oxy. ſcillæ capt. coch. j. min. ſæpe urgenti tuſſe. Feb. 3. Every ſymptom much abated; urine plentiful. Continued the digital. et infus. amar. until the 20th, and was diſcharged cured.

JOHN WILLIAMS, aged 58, was admitted Jan. 23, 1801, with cough, diſpnœa, and ſwelling of the abdomen; urine ſcanty, and much fever. ℞. Pulv. jalap ℈j. crem. tart. gt. x. ft. pulv. s. s. oxy. ſcil. ℥j. cap. coch. min. ſæpe, pulv. feb. nitroſæ,

trofæ, 4tis horis. 24th. Had one ftool, cough ftill troublefome, legs fwelled, breath very fhort, urine fcanty. ℞. Pil. fcillæ et calomel ut (Richards); rep. oxy. fcillæ et pulv. feb. nitrofæ. 26 Symptoms nearly the fame; rep. pil. fcillæ et calomel. 31. Had fome watery ftools; breath rather better, fever rather lefs, cough at night troublefome. ℞. Pil. fapon. g. x. omni nocte fum. pulv. digital. et infus. amar. (Richards). Feb. 3. Cough continues troublefome. Rep. pulv. digital. &c. et infus. amar. Swelling of the abdomen ftill continues, urine fcanty. 7. Increafed the digitalis to four grains a day. 9, 12, Took digitalis fix grains a day until the 22d, with relief, when I gave him Crem. tart. mellis aa. ℥jfs. ft. elect. cap. 3tiam partem omni die. He continued the ufe of this electuary with tonics until March 30, when he was difcharged cured.

Sarah Holliday, aged 21, was admitted Jan. 24, 1801, with general dropfy; had been out-patient to an hofpital for feveral weeks, but without relief; has been in this ftate three months; makes only three-quarters of a pint of water in 24 hours; obliged to fit perfectly erect; has not lain down in bed for fome time; her legs greatly fwelled. ℞. Pil. fcillæ et calomel ut (Richards) et pulv. digital. &c, ter die. 27. Has had two ftools; fwelling rather lefs in her arms; has made rather more urine. Rep. pulv. digital. ut antea. 31. Nearly the fame. Rep. pulv. digital, &c, et infus. amar. Feb. 3. Ditto. Rep. pulv. ut antea. 6th. Legs more fwelled; punctured the legs and gave her decoct. cinchonæ. 14th. Legs no lefs; increafed the digitalis until the 20th without effect, but found her much worfe, and fuppofed almoft in a dying ftate. I then gave her, ℞. Crem. tart. mellis aa. ℥ifs. ft. elect. ut antea fum. 22d. Found her rather eafier, a little more urine; Rept. elect. ut antea, capt. dimid. o. die. 24th. Found her much eafier, fwellings much lefs, makes more urine, 26th. Still better; Rept. elect. diuret. ut antea. The urine continued to come freely; fhe continued the electuary and decoct. cinchonæ until March 28, when fhe was difcharged cured.

William Davis, aged 58, was admitted Jan. 24, 1801; had been ill for two months with peripneumonia, and violent pain in the epigaftric region; and now the abdomen began to fwell. ℞. Pil. calomel et fcillæ ut (Richards), et pulv. digital. &c. bis die. 26th. Urine fcanty, and much in pain; had two loofe ftools; Rept. pulv. digital, &c. ter die, and crem. tart. diffolved in boiling water for common drink. 29th. Nearly the fame; Rept. pulv. digital. ut antea 4tis de die. 31. Swelling ftill continues, with much ficknefs; ℞. Infuf. digital. ℥viifs. fpirit. æth. nitrofæ ℥fs. ft. mift. capt. coch. iij. ampt. 4tis horis. Feb. 2d. Urine fmall, pain continues, ficknefs continues;

continues; Rept. miſt. ut antea. 3d. Nearly the ſame; Rept. miſt. adde conf. arom. ℨij. 4th. Sickneſs rather abated. 5th. Nearly the ſame; Rept. miſt. ut ultimo. 6th. He died.

JOHN HORNER, aged 58, was admitted Jan. 30, 1801, with general dropſy; had been a patient in the Hoſpital thirteen weeks without relief; had not lain down in his bed for three weeks, was obliged to ſit perfectly erect, breath extremely ſhort, makes one pint of urine in twenty-four hours; ℞. Pil. calomel et ſcillæ ut (Richards) et pulv. digital. &c. bis die. 31ſt. Had one coſtive ſtool; urine the ſame. Rept. pil. Feb. 2d. Very much in pain; Rept. pil. ut antea. 4th. Had two coſtive ſtools, urine the ſame, pain the ſame; ℞. Pulv. jalap ℈j. pulv. crem. tart. g. x. ft. pulv. s. s. Rept. pulv. ut antea ter die. 5th. Nearly the ſame; ℞. Infuſ. digital. ℥viiſs. ſpirit. æth. nitroſæ ℥ſs. ft. miſt. capt. coch. iij. amp. 4tis horis. 6th. He died.

WILLIAM MANN, aged 32, was admitted Dec. 9, 1800; had been ill a long time with phthiſis pulmonalis. Took tinct. digitalis et infuſ. amar. and was diſcharged, Jan. 22d, cured. Has ſince been ill again, with cough, breath ſhort, and great expectoration of purulent matter; and ſtill remains the ſame under my care.

RICHARD BATTING, aged 60, was admitted Dec. 9, 1800, with aſthma, dry cough, and breath extremely ſhort. Took tinct. digitalis cum infuſ. amar. by increaſed doſes, until Jan. 2, when he was diſcharged cured.

SARAH RAXWORTHY, aged 55, was admitted Jan. 9, 1801, with long ſtanding aſthma, breath ſhort, cough troubleſome; took tinct. digital. et infuſ. amar. by increaſed doſes for ſix weeks, then placed under another perſon's care, and died ſoon afterwards.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD, aged 80, was admitted Jan. 1, 1801, with long continued aſthma, but now unable to lie down in bed, with every ſymptom of hydrothorax and anaſarca beginning; took tinct. digital. et infuſ. amar. and was diſcharged, Feb. 14, cured. Was admitted again a month afterwards, and died ſuddenly.

GRIFFITHS LOYD, aged 75, was admitted Jan. 17, 1801; has had aſthma for many years; his legs now begin to ſwell, and urine ſcanty; took tinct. digital. by increaſed doſes, and was diſcharged, March 2, cured.

ANN RAMSEY, aged 40, was admitted Jan. 27, 1801, with conſumption; no reſt at night, and continued diarrhœa. ℞. Opii. g. j. c. n. et tinct. digital. She died Feb. 28.

MARY MELSOME, aged 53, was admitted Feb. 3, 1801; has had aſthma for twenty years; has been worſe two weeks; legs

legs ſwell, urine ſcanty; took tinct. digital. at increaſed doſes, and was diſcharged, March 20, greatly relieved.

HESTER BROWNING, aged 50, admitted Feb. 3, 1801; has had aſthma for three years, breath now extremely ſhort, expectoration much, legs much ſwelled, makes ℔ſs. of water in twenty-four hours. Took digitalis by increaſed doſes for a month without relief; I then gave her, ℞. Crem. tart. mellis aa. ℥iſs. ft. elect. which ſhe continued until the 24th of March, when ſhe was diſcharged cured.

A great many other caſes of the like kind I could inſert, if my time would permit; but I hope this will be ſufficient to ſhow that Digitalis cannot, *at all times*, be depended on. I here meant only to ſtate the clear caſes under my own immediate attention; I do not preſume, as a junior practitioner, to throw any new light on practice or diſeaſes, but merely to ſtate caſes, and leave my elders to judge of them.

I am, &c.

Dispensary House, North Street,
April 10, 1801.

W. D. ROLFE.

State of the Patients in the Briſtol Diſpenſary, from the 1ſt of March to the 1ſt of April, 1801.

Typhus Fever	44	Conſumptions	8
Stomach Complaints	8	Podagra	1
Continued Fever	17	Hæmiplegia	1
Aſthma	2	Scorbutic, &c.	3
Peripneumonia	5	Tabes Dorſalis	1
Dropſy	9	Pleuritic	2
Worms	3	Aſthenia	1
Cough and Dyſpnœa	3	Convulſio	1
Rheumatiſm	3	Hæmoptoe	2
Ophthalmia	1	Uterine Hæmorrhage	2
Bowel Complaint	7	Hyſteria	1
Puerperal Fever	1		

Account of Diſeaſes in an Eaſtern Diſtrict of London, from the 20th of March to the 20th of April, 1801.

ACUTE DISEASES.	No. of Caſes.	CHRONIC DISEASES.	No. of Caſes.
Typhus	25	Cough	23
Pneumonia	3	Dyſpnœa	12
Febris Hectica	1	Cough and Dyſpnœa	13
Ophthalmia	2	Catarrhus Senilis	2
Apoplexy	1	Phthiſis Pulmonalis	10

Pertuffis	1
Hydrothorax	2
Afcites	1
Anafarca	3
Cephalæa	6
Hemicrania	1
Vertigo	6
Paralyfis	1
Hepatitis Chronica	3
Diarrhœa	20
Dyfenteria	3
Enterodynia	3
Gaftrodynia	2
Nephritis	1
Dyfuria	2
Fluor Albus	6
Amenorrhœa	4
Chlorofis	5
Afthenia	3
Lumbago	1
Sciatica	2
Cynanche Parotidœa	3
Rheumatifmus Odontalgicus	4
Rheumatifmus Chronicus	10
PUERPERAL DISEASES.	
Menorrhagia Lochialis	4
Lactea	2
Dolores Poft Partum	3
Abfceffus Mammæ	1
INFANTILE DISEASES.	
Convulfio	2
Vermes	3
Febris Infantilis	1
Diarrhœa	4
Pertuffis	1

The difeafe which has fo long engaged the attention of the medical practitioner, and which has been confidered as the reigning epidemic, ftill continues in a confiderable degree to prevail. The number of patients affected by this fever has within the laft few weeks, rather increafed than diminifhed. Affections of the head, which have been repeatedly referred to, as a common fymptom in typhus, but as prevailing in a peculiar degree in the late fever, ftill continues as a prominent feature of the difeafe. Pain in the head, coma, or delirium, have been protracted longer than ufual, and have even continued after other febrile fymptoms have abated. Complaints of the head have indeed lately occurred in a great number of cafes, as an idiopathic difeafe. Violent pains, confufion of ideas, and vertigo, have been frequently complained of, where no fymptoms of fever could be difcovered; and vertiginous affections have in feveral inftances approached very nearly to an apoplexy.

The north-eafterly winds which blew a few weeks ago, were productive of different complaints in the face and jaws. Slight Ophthalmias alfo have been experienced by perfons who had been for a confiderable time expofed to their influence. The difeafe denominated by nofologifts Cynanche Parotidœa, and vulgarly called the Mumps, has alfo been frequently troublefome, and may probably be attributed to a fimilar caufe. Rheumatic pains of the face and teeth, termed Rheumatifmus Odontalgicus, have alfo occurred in feveral inftances.

MONTHLY

MONTHLY REPORT of DISEASES,

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

From March 20, to April 20, 1801.

	No. of Caſes.		No. of Caſes.
Chloroſis and Amenorrhœa	26	Infantile Diſeaſes - - -	33
Menorrhagia - - - - -	4	Anaſarca - - - - - -	3
Diarrhœa - - - - - -	11	Cephalæa - - - - - -	5
Tuſſis and Dyſpnœa - -	39	Epilepſy - - - - - -	3
Phthiſis Pulmonalis - -	9	Hyſteria - - - - - -	4
Cynanche Tonſillarum - -	[illegible]	Aſthenia - - - - - -	28
Eryſipelas - - - - - -	10	Hypochondriaſis and Dyſpepſia - - - - - -	19
Continued Fever - - -	31		
Chronic Eruptions - -	29		

At this ſeaſon of the year, ſcrophulous affections are more particularly apt to ſhew themſelves, in habits which have any tendency to the diſeaſe. A circumſtance that may ſeem to oppoſe an opinion that has ariſen, and in ſome meaſure is ſupported by the obſervation, that theſe complaints prevail more particularly in the northern regions of the world. It ſhould, however, be conſidered, that the winter's cold, which has been gradually operating, cannot have produced its *full* effect upon the conſtitution until the commencement of the ſpring. The *anti-vital* principles of cold cannot fail to produce debility, and all its numerous offspring of diſeaſes.

In the more northern parts of this iſland, few families, comparatively, are altogether free from ſcrophulous contamination. Even in this metropolis, inſtances not unfrequently are found in which the diſeaſe appears, accompanied with all its dangerous and diſagreeable ſymptoms.

A conſiderable number of theſe has fallen within the diſtrict of the Finſbury Inſtitution.

Sometimes this complaint ſhews itſelf in inflammation and ulceration on the edges of the eye-lids, which is apt to occaſion an entire, or partial, loſs of the laſhes, and in conſequence of being communicated to the eye itſelf, frequently renders the exerciſe of that organ, not only painful and inconvenient to the patient, but ſometimes, by inducing blindneſs, deprives him entirely of its uſe.

Scrophula, in many caſes, aſſumes the form of phthiſis, which indeed may in general be regarded as an *internal* ſcrophula.

Frequently this complaint ſhews its malignant efficacy in producing ulcers and indolent tumours in various parts of the body, leaving indelible traces, diſfiguring the form, impairing the

the eaſy and vigorous motions of the limbs, and inducing a variety of diſeaſes, in which, if not altogether incurable, the patient has ſeldom any thing to hope but from ſubmitting himſelf to the certain pain, and riſking the precarious reſult of a ſurgical operation.

By far the moſt frequent ſhape in which the diſeaſe has ſubjected itſelf to the obſervation of the Reporter, is an obſtruction in the meſenteric glands. All the perſons affected with the tabes meſenterica were young children.

Of the caſes of ſcrophula, indeed, few have occurred amongſt adults; a circumſtance which, in the claſs of the extremely poor in London, may in part ariſe from their too ſeldom being able to provide for their puny and diſeaſed offspring, even a ſcanty and occaſional ſupply of that nouriſhing and ſtrengthening diet, peculiarly requiſite for the ſupport of a ſcrophulous conſtitution.

In the treatment of ſcrophula, the writer of this article preſcribed cleanlineſs, exerciſe, cold bathing, and as much of ſubſtantial food as the circumſtances of the patient, or thoſe of his family, would enable him conveniently to procure.

As one of the beſt correctors of a relaxed and debilitated habit, port wine was in ſome inſtances ſtrongly recommended; but the expence of this article rendering it at preſent almoſt inacceſſible to the greater part of Diſpenſary-patients, it was in general found neceſſary to ſubſtitute the Peruvian or ſome other of the barks that are made uſe of in medicine.

The multitude of general remedies that have been propoſed for the treatment of ſcrophula, demonſtrate the difficulty of accompliſhing a cure. Each has, in its turn, been at one time warmly applauded, and eagerly received; at another, as bitterly reprobated, and as generally rejected. Millepedes and burnt ſponge, antimony and mercury, ſaſſafras and mezereum, tuſſilago and cicuta, have ſucceſſively had their career of triumph, and their days of diſgrace; nor is it too bold to prognoſticate, that the period will arrive when they will ſhare the fate of many other remedies which have now ſunk into neglect, and which repoſe in the ſame peaceful oblivion with the aſhes of their authors. Tonic remedies, indeed, have inherited, and ſeem likely to enjoy, a more permanent reputation. Inſtead of requiring correction, Nature, in the diſeaſe at preſent under conſideration, ſeems to be more in need of our friendly ſupport and aſſiſtance. The internal remedies, from which the greateſt ſucceſs may be expected, are, the Peruvian bark, already mentioned, with the various preparations of ſteel, in conjunction, perhaps, with gently ſtimulating aperients, the muriated tincture of iron, in doſes of from five to ten drops, poured from

from a two-ounce vial, three times a day, has been given with ſignal advantage in a variety of ſcrophulous affections.

The barytic muriate has of late been propoſed by Dr. Crawford, and appears, from the teſtimonies of many reſpectable authorities, to be well deſerving of further attention. But it is neceſſary to caution the practitioner, who may be induced to give it a trial, againſt the admixture of noxious metals, with which the barytic ſolution is ſometimes contaminated. Its impurity may be always detected by the addition of a ſmall quantity of barytic lime-water. The doſe ſhould be carefully regulated, and gradually increaſed, leſt it produce ſymptoms of nervous affection. It may be uſeful to remark, that twenty drops at a time is as much as an adult can bear with impunity.

The remedy which ſeemed to have the moſt ſtriking, and the only one perhaps that had a permanent effect in alleviating the ſymptoms, or in abridging the period of the diſorder, was a temporary reſidence at the ſea-ſide. This afforded an opportunity to the patient of experiencing at once the ſalubrious influence of the elements, both of which have been found eminently conducive to the eaſe or the relief of ſcrophulas, as well as all diſeaſes which have their ſource in phyſical debility.

One of the moſt decided and obſtinate caſes of ſcrophulous affections, which was alluded to in one of the preceding Reports, in which the patient ſuffered alternately from a ſore in her breaſt, and a violent pain in her head; her complaint had been of long ſtanding, and had not in the ſlighteſt degree yielded to the remedies which had been adminiſtered to her before her application for relief to the Finſbury Diſpenſary. She ſeemed, for a time, to be relieved by the Cort. Peruv. taken regularly in frequent and conſiderable doſes.

After a trial of ſome weeks the caſe continued to be imperfect. It was thought right to recommend, as the only chance that remained of a perfect reſtoration to her former health and vigour, to ſettle, during a conſiderable period of the ſummer, on the ſea-coaſt. In conſequence of a faithful obedience to this advice, her conſtitution ſeems ſince to be in a great meaſure regenerated, and the affections, which before were ſo troubleſome to her, entirely removed.

The preceding obſervations, with regard to the ſalutary efficacy of ſea-bathing, ought to be qualified by the exception of its uſe, in thoſe inſtances where there is any morbid affection of the lungs.

In theſe caſes, the ſea generally aggravates the ſufferings of the patient, and accelerates the termination of his life.

How large a number of the deaths we ſee inſerted in the public papers is that of thoſe which have occurred at ſea-bathing-

ing-places, where it is generally obſerved, that the deceaſed had gone for the benefit of his health.

The more than ordinary expedition with which Death executes his deſtined taſk in theſe faſhionable reſorts of gaiety and ſickneſs, is ſtrikingly exhibited to our view in their crowded records of mortality.

The authentic and melancholy enumeration of the victims to untimely fate, one ſhould imagine, could ſcarcely fail to awaken a gloomy preſentiment in the mind, that in ſome meaſure tends to counteract the diſpoſition to hope, ſo eaſily imbibed and ſo anxiouſly cheriſhed by the multitude of conſumptive invalids, who, on the approach of each returning ſummer, haſten with eagerneſs to the coaſt, fondly expecting to find, amidſt the breezes of the ocean, that relief, which, elſewhere, had been ſought for in vain.

Red Lion Square. J. R.

Diſeaſes admitted under the care of the Phyſicians of the Weſtminſter Hoſpital, from the 25th of March to the 27th of April, 1801.

	No. of Caſes.		No. of Caſes
Continued Fever	8	Hæmorrhois	1
Intermittent	1	Impetigo	3
Otitis	1	Iſchuria	1
Pleuritis	2	Leucorrhœa	2
Cynanche	1	Menorrhagia	1
Anaſarca	4	Obſtipatio	1
Aſcites	1	Paralyſis	2
Aſthenia	3	Phthiſis	2
Aſthma	1	Prolapſus	1
Catarrh	3	Rheumatiſm	11
Chloroſis	1	Struma	3
Diarrhœa	2	Syphilis	1
Dyſpepſia	2	Tuſſis	8
Dyſpnœa	1	Urticaria	1
Enterodyria	1	Vermes	2
Gaſtrodynia	2	Vertigo	1
Hæmoptœ	3		

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

A Printed paper was put into my hands a few days ago, subscribed D. WHITEHEAD, No. 16, Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, recommending a revival of the old remedy for the Gout, known by the name of the Portland Powder, which is here said to be improved, and is exhibited in the form of an expensive and lucrative nostrum.

As the effects of this preparation have long been recognized by professional persons as injurious and mischievous, and as the authorities cited in the paper which recommends it, are much misrepresented and perverted, I wish to lay before the public what I apprehend to be the true state of the case, and to caution mankind against the trial of a remedy at once so deceitful and so dangerous. From what is said in the paper above alluded to, we should be led to believe that this remedy was purchased and dispersed by the present* Duke of Portland; whereas, it was by his father, many years ago. The present nobleman owes his amendment, and indeed his recovery from this painful complaint, to a meritorious and steady adherence to an abstemious and regular course of diet, which consists nearly of vegetable substances; the mixture of animal food being very small, and that of the mildest kind: to this is joined a total abstinence from all fermented liquors; and it is to this judicious management, and not to any medicine, either regularly prescribed or empirically recommended, that he ascribes his freedom from this hereditary malady. The powder which the late duke took himself, and of which he directed copies of the composition, and the manner of its preparation, to be given gratuitously to all who desired it, is as follows:

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* "His Grace the Duke of Portland, who had, I believe, been personally an extreme sufferer from the Gout, became acquainted with a medicine in Switzerland, for the cure of that inveterate disorder; and after the most indubitable evidence of its intrinsic worth, purchased the receipt for the benefit of his country. This medicine, in a highly improved form, I beg leave to introduce to your notice; and hope, that the sanction of the illustrious family by whom the receipt was first obtained, will secure an unbiassed attention to the necessary improvements now introduced into its composition." Mr. WHITEHEAD's Hand-Bill, page 1.

"For the GOUT or RHEUMATISM.

"℞. Ariſtolochia rotunda (or birthwort), gentian, root; Germander, ground pine, centaury, tops and leaves.

"Take of all theſe, well dried, powdered and ſifted as fine as you can, equal weight; mix them well together, and take one drachm of this mixed powder every morning faſting, in a cup of wine and water, broth, tea, or any other vehicle you like beſt; keep faſting an hour and half after it. Continue this for three months without interruption; then diminiſh the doſe to three-fourths of a drachm for three months longer; then to half a drachm for ſix months more, taking it regularly every morning if poſſible. After the firſt year, it will be ſufficient to take half a drachm every other day. As this medicine operates inſenſibly, it will perhaps take two years before you receive any great benefit, ſo you muſt not be diſcouraged, though you do not perceive at firſt any great amendment; it works ſlow, but ſure; it doth not confine the patient to any particular diet, ſo one lives ſoberly, and abſtains from thoſe meats and liquors that have always been accounted pernicious in the Gout, as Champaigne, drams, high ſauces, &c.

"N. B. In the Rheumatiſm that is only accidental, and not habitual, a few of the drachm doſes may do; but if habitual, or of long duration, then you muſt take it as for the Gout;—the remedy requires patience, as it operates but ſlow in both diſtempers."

The ingenious and learned Dr. JOHN CLEPHANE has given an excellent account of this very ancient preparation, in the firſt volume of the Medical Obſervations and Inquiries. It is mentioned, he obſerves, with very little variation from the above receipt, by Galen in the ſecond century; by Cælius Aurelianus, (from Soranus) who lived about the ſame time; by Actius and Alexander Trallianus in the fifth century; by Paulus Ægineta in the ſeventh century; by Myrepſus in the twelfth; by Franciſcus de Pedemontio, A. D. 1400; by the Prince of Mirandola, about 1480; by Tournefort in later times; and at a period ſtill later, it was transferred into the Paris Pharmacopœia, under the title of Pulvis Arthriticus Amarus.

This powder was given in the doſe of about a drachm, daily, for a year; as many of thoſe remedies called antidoti* were, and theſe directions are nearly copied in thoſe given for the uſe of the Portland powder, ſave that the latter is directed to be perſiſted in for a longer time.

But

* They were called from thence Annalia Medicamenta. Cæl. Aurel.

But though it cannot be denied that the ancient writers recommended, in ſome caſes, theſe bitter preparations as remedies for the Gout, yet they adviſed them with conſiderable reſerve, and an apprehenſion of their danger.

Soranus,* who adviſed them, cautions againſt their being long continued; as, he ſays, they brought on ſome perſons acute complaints; on others, apoplexy; on others, pleuriſy and peripneumony; and in ſome caſes, difficulty of breathing, or dyſpnœa.

All of the writers on the ſubject, caution againſt the indiſcriminate uſe of it in all caſes and habits, as they aſſure us that they are extremely hurtful in hot and bilious habits, and proper only in cold phlegmatic conſtitutions. They alſo judged them to be very dangerous in caſes of long ſtanding, and adviſe no trial of them to be made where the complaint has exiſted *five*, or at moſt, *ſeven* years.

Such is the abſtract of the accounts given of this remedy by the writers of antiquity. Let us now turn to the modern accounts, and particularly to that of the celebrated Dr. Cullen, who is vouched as evidence of the fact by Mr. Whitehead; wherein it will appear, with what impropriety, and under what miſrepreſentation, this admirable phyſician has been introduced as encouraging a practice he always reprobated in his converſation, as I can teſtify, and in his writings, which are open to the peruſal of every one.

"In every inſtance," ſays Dr. Cullen, in his †Practice of Phyſic, "which I have known of its exhibition for the length of time preſcribed, the perſons who had taken it were, indeed, afterwards free from any inflammatory affection of the joints; but they were afterwards affected with many ſymptoms of the atonic Gout, and *all*, ſoon after finiſhing their courſe of the medicine, have been attacked with apoplexy, aſthma, or dropſy, which proved fatal."

In a later publication of the ſame eminent writer, he obſerves, that "the effects of this powder in modern times, have been very much on the ſame footing with the ancient. It is poſſible, ſays he, that ſeveral perſons may have taken the Portland powder, and other bitters, with ſeeming great advantage; but I have not had opportunity to know the ſequel of the whole of ſuch perſons lives, ſo as to ſay poſitively how far, in any caſe, the cure continued ſteady for a life of ſome years after, or what accidents happened to their health.

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* Cælii. Aurel. L. v. c. 2.
† § DLVII.

" But I have had occasion to know, or to be exactly informed, of the fate of nine or ten persons who had taken this medicine for the time prescribed, which is two years. These persons had been liable for some years before to have a fit of regular or very painful inflammatory gout, once at least, and frequently twice in the course of a year; but after they had taken the medicine for some time, they were quite free from any fit of inflammatory gout, and particularly when they had completed the course prescribed, had never a regular fit, or any inflammation of the extremities, for the rest of their life.

" In no instance however that I have known, was the health of these persons tolerably entire. Soon after finishing the course of their medicine, they became valetudinary in different shapes, and particularly were much afflicted with dyspeptic and what are called nervous complaints, with lowness of spirits. *In every one of them*, before a year had passed after finishing the course of the powders, some hydropic symptoms appeared, which gradually increasing in the form of an ascites or hydrothorax, especially the latter, joined with anasarca, in less than two or at most three years proved fatal.

" These accidents happening to persons of some rank, became very generally known in this country, and has prevented all such experiments since." Such are the words of Dr. Cullen; and the reader will, I am certain, join with me in censuring the disingenuous perversion of them in the printed paper alluded to *. Had the whole of the passages I have cited been inserted into Mr. Whitehead's recommendation of the remedy, who could have imagined Dr. Cullen could be introduced as bearing testimony in favour of its use? But the real opinion of Dr. Cullen is suppressed, and only so much of the effects of the powder is inserted on his authority, as may serve the purpose of persuading those who have not had an opportunity of knowing his real sentiments. In justice to him, and to mankind, I now lay them before the public, and I am confident the candid and benevolent part of the world will think me fully justified in publishing this caution in the use of a remedy of this character. But its ill effects were not known to our own countrymen only; Werlhoff, a German practitioner of eminence, and first physician to his late Majesty for the Electorate of Hanover, agrees in condemning these bitter remedies

* " This celebrated remedy, since its introduction into England, is acknowledged by the most eminent of the faculty to be capable of removing the paroxysms of the gout; and we may freely conclude the testimony of the celebrated Dr. Cullen, of Edinburgh, undeniable evidence of the fact."

Mr. WHITEHEAD's Advertisement, or Hand-bill, Page 1.

remedies for the gout. After ſaying that the return of the painful paroxyſms is thereby prevented, he adds, "that by the exceſſive uſe of theſe bitter remedies, he has known the digeſtive power of the ſtomach to be ſo weakened, as to produce a loſs of appetite, and proper concoction of the food, which has accelerated the death, inſtead of reſtoring the health of thoſe who had uſed them, who thus paid the ſevere penalty attendant on the trial of theſe unlucky and miſchievous remedies."*

Murray, the Gottingen profeſſor, gives in his Apparatus Medicamentum, a ſimilar account; and adds, "that the powder produced in many inſtances, apoplexy, palſy, and acute diſorders, together with difficulty of breathing, a dry cough, and tubercles of the lungs, which proved ſuddenly mortal.†

The reputation of this medicine having declined before I had any opportunity of obſerving its effects at the time of taking, and its miſchievous conſequences having prevented its having many living vouchers of its ſucceſs, I cannot ſay any thing of it from my own experience. I remember, indeed, one perſon far advanced in years, who was I believe a Proctor in the Eccleſiaſtical Court at York, who was pointed out to me as a remarkable inſtance of one who had ſurvived the effects of this remedy. He appeared in good health, and had not I believe experienced any ill effects from the powder. But this is, as far as my information goes, a ſolitary inſtance, and no more to be depended on as an encouragement to the trial of the remedy than an extraordinary caſe of exceſs in ſpirituous liquors, which ſtill did not appear to abridge life, or injure health, would be to encourage the indulging in that odious and poiſonous beverage.

Bath, Feb. 12, 1801. WILLIAM FALCONER.

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* Sed ex nimio horum amaricantium uſu, fermentum ſtomachi adeo debilitatum eſſe memini, ut nonnuli appetitum amiſerint, cibos non concoxerint, mortem hinc potius, quam ſanitatem accelerarint; malique ex infauſti remedii ſævas dederint pœnas. WERLHOFF, Caut. Medicæ, Page 346.

† Ex pulvere arthritico multi apoplexiam, paralyſin, vel morbos acutos, ſenes præcipue, contraxerunt. Et in homine quodam, arthritis quidem inde ſedata, ſed reſpiratio difficilis, tuſſis ſicca, morſque ſubitanea ſucceſſit, tuberculis pulmonum poſt mortem conſpicuis.

MURRAY, Vol. I. Page 355.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following obſervations reſpecting Yeaſt, merit a place in your valuable Journal, you will much oblige me by inſerting them next month.

Uxbridge, I am, &c.
20th March, 1801. A. EDLIN.

When profeſſional men come forward in a candid manner to announce to the world the r[illegible]ew remedies as they have employed, either from their own ſuggeſtion or the recommendation of others, it is rather unfair to criticiſe their opinions and condemn their practice, without deliberate reflection, or even without a trial; inſtead of attempting by experiment and enquiry, to appreciate the merit of ſuch diſcovery.

The very act of holding up new remedies to the ſhafts of ridicule, may deter timid practitioners from adopting them; hence the ſpirit of enquiry is ſtifled, and the cauſe of truth extinguiſhed. In this point of view I am led to conſider a controverſy that has taken place between Mr. Groſe and Mr. Cuſtance, reſpecting the uſe of yeaſt in typhus fever.

If Mr. Cuſtance, inſtead of treating the practice as empirical, and dilating upon it with levity, had examined the ſubject with ſeriouſneſs and deliberation; if he had taken the trouble to inveſtigate the nature and properties of yeaſt, and conſidered the effects of its conſtituent principles in the cure of fever, the judicious part of the profeſſion would then have received his obſervations with candour; and although they might have diſſented from his opinion, would have reſpected his motives. But when a medicine is unjuſtly condemned, without the leaſt reſpect to practice, and in open violation of all ſound reaſoning, it behoves every one who has the good of his profeſſion at heart, to ſtep forward, and prevent, if poſſible, ſuch pernicious doctrines from being implicitly believed.

I, in common with many other gentlemen, have tried and experienced the beneficial effects of yeaſt in typhus fever, and I truſt many more will try alſo. I reported in a little pamphlet on malignant fever (which Mr. Groſe has done me the honour to recommend), a few caſes where I had found it particularly ſerviceable, and ſince that time have had frequent occaſion to try it in ſimilar complaints, and have uniformly ſeen it do good. I will not go ſo far as to aſſert, that yeaſt will effect a cure alone; yet, notwithſtanding, it may be conſidered as a moſt powerful

powerful auxiliary; and often when the ſtomach is ſo irritable that bark will be inſtantly rejected, a cautious exhibition of yeaſt will quiet that irritation, and keep alive the vital ſpark, till more powerful means can be had recourſe to.

It is in this way I, am perſuaded, that Mr. Groſe has exhibited yeaſt, adapting that and other remedies to the exigencies of the moment, varying his plan according to the ſymptoms, and thus ſhewing himſelf a ſkilful phyſician in oppoſition to the empiric, who boaſts of his noſtrum to cure every diſeaſe.

In order to induce your readers to try ſo promiſing a remedy, I beg leave to detail the following experiment, and from the concluſions that naturally ariſe, I truſt a ſatisfactory explanation will be given, why yeaſt is ſerviceable in typhus fever.

I took a portion of yeaſt freſh from the brewhouſe, and put it into a glaſs retort; this was placed over the peumato-chemical apparatus, and by means of a lamp received over ſeveral vials of a gas which were ſubjected to teſts that clearly proved it to be carbonic acid gas, as expected.

This ſubject naturally brings to our recollection the experiments of Dr. Macbride, who was not only enabled to preſerve meat from putrefaction, by incloſing it in veſſels of fixed air, but alſo to reſtore ſuch as was bordering upon putrefaction to its original purity again; and he was of opinion that this gas united with the putrid ſubſtance, and reſtored the acid it had loſt during the time of putrefaction.

It may be argued, that a complete putrefaction is not a complaint of the human machine that can be an object of practice, becauſe it cannot take place in any important part of the body without extinguiſhing life; but there is a tendency to it in a conſiderable degree in various morbid diſorders, which yeaſt is very likely to correct or reſiſt; hence it is evident, that ſuch articles of Materia Medica as contain a large portion of fixed air, in a ſtate to be gradually evolved in the ſtomach, are of great uſe in fevers of a putrid tendency; and this accounts for the good effects of cyder, bottled porter, and yeaſt; and whatever may be its mode of action, the fact is indiſputable, that fixed air takes off that extreme debility of the ſtomach ſo conſpicuouſly marked in theſe diſorders; and in proportion as that ſubſides the pulſe riſes, becomes ſlower and fuller, the cauſtic heat on the ſkin diſappears, and a truce is gained for the reception of more nouriſhing ſupplies.

Such is my opinion concerning yeaſt as an antiſeptic, and I truſt that Mr. Cuſtance's liberality will excuſe the freedom of theſe remarks, and flatter myſelf, that at ſome future period he will alſo come forward with his teſtimony in ſupport of its credit in typhus fever.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Angina Maligna being a diſeaſe which has made its appearance in this kingdom, with more or leſs ſeverity for ſeveral years; and it being probable it may continue to viſit us, I beg leave to recommend a plan for preventing the ſpreading of the contagious effluvia; a plan which I adopted in the year 1791, and have ſince witneſſed its ſucceſs in ſome hundreds of caſes.

It would be ſuperfluous in me to give a full hiſtory of this diſeaſe, as we have it from a more able man, Dr. Fothergill, who wrote in the year 1748. This author, after noticing the opinions and practice of the Spaniſh and Italian writers on the ſubject, gives a very faithful and perfect detail of its firſt appearance in this country; alſo its progreſs, with the mode of cure. He concludes his treatiſe, by obſerving,

1ſt. That the ſore throat, attended with ulcers, ſeems to be accompanied with a ſtrong diſpoſition to putrefaction, which affects the habit in general; but the fauces, and the parts contiguous, in particular; and it ſeems not unreaſonable to ſuppoſe,

2dly. That the cauſe of this tendency is a putrid virus, or miaſma ſui generis, introduced into the habit by contagion, principally by means of the breath of the perſon affected.

3dly. That this virus, or contagious matter, produces effects more or leſs pernicious, according to the quantity and nature of the infection, and as the ſubject is diſpoſed to receive or ſuffer by it.

4thly. That putrefactive and malignant diſeaſes, in common, admit of the moſt ſenſible and ſecure relief from diſcharges of the peccant matter, either upon the ſkin in general, or on particular parts of the body.

5thly. That the redneſs and cutaneous efflореſcence in the preſent caſe, may be conſidered as an eruption of the like nature, and therefore to be promoted by ſuch methods as have proved ſucceſsful in ſimilar caſes.

As my paper offers only a recommendatory plan of prevention, it may ſeem a digreſſion in my noticing a curative caution, as to the mode of treating the ulcers; but this I am prompted to, from obſerving the attention (recommended by Spaniſh authors, as well as by gentlemen in the iſland of St. Vincent and Grenada), to the uſe of local applications to the throat. In two letters from John Collins, Eſq. of the Iſland of St. Vincent,

cent, addreſſed to Benjamin Vaughan, Eſq. of London, in the year 1790, is deſcribed a diſeaſe not confining itſelf to the above iſlands, but a diſeaſe that extended through the whole range of iſlands in that quarter; its attacks were followed with fatality in a great many caſes. Bark and tonic medicines were given with little or no effect; and the gangrenous diſpoſition of the throat was only checked by capſicum; a remedy which at once gives us not only the evident ſenſe of its activity, but the ample proof of its innocence, when taken in a large quantity; a remedy which is uſed in intermittent fevers, and for the ſuppreſſion of vomitings, in the putrid fevers of warm countries, with ſucceſs.

But to the point. My own obſervations lead me to obſerve, that the diſeaſe in queſtion generally makes its firſt attack on weakly children; that its conſequences depend upon ſeaſons, ſituations, conſtitution, and method of treatment; that in one or two caſes, at firſt, it may prove of a benign and doubtful nature; but that the effloreſcence on the ſkin will expoſe to us the inſidious enemy; that it is communicated by the contagious effluvia from an ulcerated throat lodging on the tonſils of other perſons; that death to a certain extent is produced in the part; that no inconvenience is at firſt felt, more than an aching, a ſtiffneſs, and an inability to move the neck; that in a day or two the ſlough is removed by ulcerative inflammation; that vomiting, chillineſs, and fever, with head-ach, now come on, accompanied by heart-burn and diarrhœa; that theſe ſymptoms are ſucceeded by an effloreſcence on the ſkin, and by perſpiration, which generally prove ſalutary, and lead to a cure. Having related what has appeared to me the uſual courſe of the diſeaſe, I will briefly mention my method of prevention. It conſiſts, in ordering to all the attendants of the ſick, a tea ſpoonful or two of the under written gargle to be uſed, and ſwallowed every two hours. It is meant to produce and keep up a regular excitement on the tonſils, uvula, and fauces; and by that means enable them to reſiſt the ſedative effects of the human poiſon. I will repeat what I before mentioned, that where the gargle is ſufficiently pungent, and often enough uſed, I have never ſeen it fail.

℞. Pip. Cayenn. coch. j. magn. Sal. comm. coch. j. min. aq. bull. ℥iij. acet. diſtill. ℥iij. f. garg.

I am, &c.

Calne, Wilts, March 16, 1801. HENRY HEADLY.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the last Number of your valuable Journal, I see Mr. Sheldrake has again resumed the dispute, with regard to distorted limbs; and it is singular enough, that he should now assign the *same* reason for doing this, that he did on a former occasion for leaving it off*. In his last communication, however, he appears to have deserted in a great measure the original dispute, and to have substituted another in its place, from which he, no doubt, expects to acquire greater honour, or at any rate, to derive less disgrace.

His original answer to my communication consisted of *three grand charges*, and a few common-place observations.—The first charge was, "That my invention was not original." In proof of this, three *reasons* were adduced, all of which I have elsewhere refuted so fully, that Mr. S. has not ventured to say a *single word in reply*. The second charge was, "That the invention was useless." In proof of this, a number of *assertions* were adduced, all of which I have refuted fully by the best of all arguments, the test of experiment. And every day I see new proofs added to those I have already brought forward. This part of the answer Mr. S. has also relinquished as *indefensible*; not a *single word* is said of it in his *last* communication. The third charge was, "That the hint thrown out in the end of my communication, with regard to the application of *a spring* to curvature in the bones of the leg, was *borrowed*, *copied*, or *purloined* from a work of *his*." This I also refuted as fully as I thought the importance of the subject required, or any reasonable man could ask; but as Mr. S. *seems still unconvinced*, I beg leave to say a few words more on this subject.

I threw it out merely as a hint, which might be improved by others without ever having tried it myself; and in doing this I was not conscious of doing injury or giving offence to any man;

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* The reason Mr. S. assigned on a former occasion for leaving off the dispute, was my having used *personal abuse*. Now, "It is to repel *such reflections* ONLY that he has written this; and trusts that *you* (the Editors) will see the propriety of putting an end to *such* disputes, *which*, by the *conduct* of my *opponent*, have degenerated into *personal abuse!*" When Mr. S. made this peroration, he seems to have foreseen clearly, and dreaded the consequences of his last communication!" He therefore, in order to get off with the victory, makes this singular request to the Editors, that they publish *nothing more from his opponent!*

man; for I may say, and I can say it with truth, that I had never *seen* nor *heard of* Mr. Sheldrake's *specification*, nor his *Practical Essay*; nor did I know that such a man was *in existence* till I saw his answer to my communication. But as this *truth* can only be substantiated by *my assertion*, and as Mr. S. will probably require stronger evidence, I may observe that all the resemblance between the two contrivances is simply this, *both use a spring*. But of the particular method of using it, Mr. S. gives no account; he says, it may be applied "by bandage or otherwise." In my communication, however, I give a *particular* account how it is fixed to the machine, how it is applied to the leg, and how it is to operate.

It is certainly a very *slender* proof of plagiarism to say that because I use a *spring*, and you use a *spring*, therefore *you* must have "borrowed, copied, or purloined" your idea from *me*. He might as well say that because a *watch* is put in motion by the action of a *spring*, a *firelock* is the *same*; therefore the man who invented the one must have borrowed his ideas from the other; or as Mr. S. would elegantly express it, "That he is a *mean* plagiary who *meanly* extracts from the works of others; thus meanly seeking to deprive them of what reputation may attach itself to their discovery, and hoping to *purloin* that reputation to which *his conscience tells him he has no right!*" This is directly asserting that it is impossible for two men to think in the same way, without the one having borrowed his ideas from the other. This is contrary to Mr. S's *own* opinion; for he says, that "the existence of similar passages in different authors does not *necessarily* imply plagiarism in either."

If a bone, or other flexible body, be bent to the one side more than is proper, would it not be very natural for a man to think or say, that if pressure was made on the convex side, and resistance at the two ends, that the curve of course would be diminished. This is a principle known to every *mechanic*, and to every man who exercises his reason, and this is all Mr. S. claims as *his invention!* He says this operation may be done by a spring and bandage, or *otherwise*." In my communication, however, I ventured a little farther, and gave a drawing and description, not only of the machine and spring by themselves, but also of the manner in which they were to be applied to the leg.

But if Mr. S. should still doubt that I have borrowed my ideas from him, nothing certainly can be more convincing than his own words. "In the mean time," says he, "I beg leave to observe, that if a congress was assembled of all the *patients* who have been under my care, with their *friends*, and the *medical men* who have attended them, they would unanimously de-

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termine that Mr. W. has not *at present the most distant comprehension of my plan*." And again, "Whoever will try (speaking prophetically) that particular modification of a spring which *he* recommends, will find *that it cannot answer the purpose he recommends it for*. I would ask Mr. S. how is it possible that I could have *borrowed*, *copied*, *purloined*, or by whatever term plagiarism may be designed," his ideas without having "the most *distant comprehension* of his plan?" Or how my plan, which he declared on a former occasion was the same as his, should be so *ineffectual*, while his is *efficacious?* These involve Mr. S. in a contradiction from which it will cost him *some trouble* to extricate himself.

Mr. Sheldrake surely does not claim the merit of having first invented a *spring*. No,—springs were known long before his day. It is only a *particular manner* of applying it to a *particular purpose*, that he claims as *his invention*; and of this *particular manner* he declares that I have not *at present the most distant comprehension*; therefore it was *impossible* I could *borrow*, *copy*, or *purloin* it from him. I may observe too, on the other ground *he* has laid down, that *my* invention cannot possibly be the same as *his*, or borrowed from *him*, since "it cannot answer the purpose it is recommended for," or as he elsewhere expresses it, "if any person will try the instrument described by Mr. Watt, he will find it *perfectly useless!*" If two instruments are the same, the effects they produce must also be the same. But if the effects are as *widely* different as Mr. S. has stated, it is surely no strained conclusion to infer *that the instruments are as widely different as the effects they produce*; and therefore the man who suggests the one can have no claim on the man who suggests the other. These are conclusions fairly drawn from Mr. S's *own premises*, and to which *he cannot possibly object*.

It would certainly be necessary when Mr. S. resumes the dispute, that he should make public through the medium of your Journal, *or otherwise*, a description and drawing of his plan, for it is evident he has not yet promulgated any thing on that head, or what he has promulgated is so obscure as not to be understood. For he declares I have not, "at present, the most distant comprehension of his plan." This, however, he may say is owing to the obtuseness of my intellect, by which I am not able to comprehend him; but he has said elsewhere,* "that it

* In a conversation that passed between Mr. S. and Mr. Pugh, concerning the cure of a distorted limb, Mr. S. says, that "Mr. P. was delighted to hear

it muſt be by means ONLY KNOWN TO MYSELF, and by my *own* application." This puts it beyond all doubt, and ſhows the neceſſity of Mr. Sheldrake's bringing forward his invention; for how can a man diſpute on a ſubject of which he has not the moſt diſtant comprehenſion? Or how can Mr. S. blame others for purloining from him that which is known ONLY to himſelf. It muſt therefore depend entirely upon the *dictum* of Mr. S. whether my invention is the ſame as his or not, ſince HE *only knows what his invention is.*

Having diſcuſſed what belongs to the original diſpute concerning diſtorted limbs, I come now to conſider the charge of *perſonal abuſe*;† and as Mr. S. has complained ſo much of this particular, I ſhall trouble you with a few paſſages extracted from his laſt, which if they anſwer no better purpoſe, they will *at leaſt* convince your readers, and Mr. S. among the reſt, that no inconſiderable proportion of his communications is made up of *ſuch materials.* Among many other *epithets* and *inſinuations*, which it would be endleſs to enumerate, I am denominated by Mr. Sheldrake:

"*A Plagiary, a Purloiner, a Liar, a Coward, a Slanderer, a Dogmatiſt, an Impoſtor, a profeſſed Controvertialiſt, a Reproacher, a whimſical Perſon, and a Freebooter.*" ‡

When Mr. S. was writing an eſſay for the *expreſs purpoſe* of repelling ſuch *ſlanderous perſonal abuſe*, he ought to have couched it in language that was *at leaſt decent*, and not have proceeded to pluck the *mote* out of his neighbour's eye till he had firſt taken the BEAM out of his own. I cannot however help admiring

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hear that I thought a cure was not impracticable, and laboured ARDENTLY to perſuade *me* to inform *him* of the method I ſhould uſe, and put *him* in poſſeſſion of my inſtruments; but finding ME INFLEXIBLE, he, with *the affectation of much liberality, declared* he only ſought for the benefit of the patient, and therefore conſented that I ſhould proceed in my *own way*. Medical and Phyſical Journal, Vol. iv. p. 494. This proves in a very ſatisfactory manner that Mr. S. has not as yet made his plan public, nor, on account of his *inflexibility*, does he appear willing to do ſo.

† For the perſonal abuſe uſed againſt Mr. Sheldrake, ſee Medical and Phyſical Journal, Vol. v. p. 266, or rather Vol. iv. p. 498 to 503.

‡ Mr. S. ſays his patent extends only to England and Wales, and not to North Britain. This however is his own fault; for had his invention been of ſo much importance as he pretends, he could eaſily have extended it to Scotland alſo, and not have deprived any part of his country of ſo *invaluable a bleſſing!* But I may obſerve, that the *celebrity* of many inventions depends more on the *ſecrecy* with which they are preſerved from the *eye of the public* than on any *intrinſic value* in themſelves. Whether Mr. S's is of this deſcription or not, *no man* can ſay, ſince his invention is known *only to himſelf.*

admiring his ingenuity in being able to introduce ſo many of theſe *elegant figures of ſpeech* within ſuch narrow limits! In this particular he has certainly equalled, if not excelled, moſt authors who have written on the ſubject. I am, &c.

Paiſley, March 25, 1801. R. WATT.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

Gentlemen,

If you think the following caſes deſerve a place in your very uſeful Publication, you are at liberty to inſert them. The firſt proves that the Small-pox do not prevent the Vaccine Contagion from taking its uſual effect, if properly applied to the body. The ſecond proves that the two diſeaſes may exiſt at the ſame time in the ſame perſon, and yet continue perfectly diſtinct.

Case First.—In the beginning of February laſt, I inoculated M. W. a girl about five years of age, with Vaccine Matter on both arms. After ſhe had gone through the uſual ſtages of the diſeaſe, about the eleventh or twelfth day I opened the puſtules, and was extracting matter from them for the purpoſe of inoculating others. Her uncle, Mr. W. a man about twenty-ſix years of age, was looking on, and appeared to be very much taken up in examining the appearance and conſiſtence of the matter; and I obſerved him frequently touching it with his finger.

On the ſeventh day after this, I was called to examine his noſtrils, which appeared very much excoriated and inflamed, in conſequence of a ſevere cold he had received a few weeks before: The ſalivary glands too, on both ſides, had begun to ſwell, and were become exceedingly painful. He attributed this to a freſh cold he had received a few days ago, and which appeared to me extremely probable. I ordered leeches to be applied to the inflamed glands, and directed him not to expoſe himſelf again to the cold till he had fairly recovered.

On the eighth day the ſwelling in the glands continued, but the pain was conſiderably relieved ſince the bleeding. The noſtrils were more inflamed, and the noſe itſelf was ſwelled to a very great ſize, and extremely painful: I ordered leeches to be applied to it, which gave him conſiderable relief.

On the ninth day the pain in the noſe had returned, and the ſwelling continued to increaſe. The patient was exceedingly alarmed

alarmed, and inſiſted to know what I thought was the matter with his noſe: He ſaid he believed it was a cancer, for the noſe was often ſubject to that diſeaſe; I aſſured him, from its appearance, and the rapid progreſs it had made, that I was convinced that it was not a cancer. On examining carefully his noſtrils, I could perceive ſomething in each of them that very nearly reſembled a Vaccine puſtule: The nearer I examined it I found the reſemblance ſtill more complete. I aſked him whether or not he thought any of the Cow-pox matter could poſſibly have got into his noſtrils, as I recollected his handling ſome of it when I took it from his niece's arms. He ſaid it was very poſſible, for at that time he carried a ſmall box of ointment in his pocket, with which he uſed frequently to anoint his noſtrils; and that he might probably have done this with the ſame finger with which he had touched the Vaccine Matter.

This account confirmed my ſuſpicions, and removed my fears; for I muſt confeſs I was conſiderably alarmed at ſuch a ſingular phenomenon, ſo widely different from any thing I had ever ſeen. I told him not to be afraid, he had only inoculated himſelf with the Cow-pox, and would ſoon be better. In three or four days more the puſtules were completely formed, and the diſeaſe at laſt terminated in the uſual way. In two weeks after the noſtrils were completely whole; and what is ſingular, for ſeveral years paſt, Mr. W. in the ſpring ſeaſon was much afflicted with ſore noſtrils; and this year, prior to the inoculation, they appeared to be worſe than ever; but ſince that time they have been perfectly ſound, and the ſkin ſtronger than it has been for ſeveral years paſt. May not the inſertion of Vaccine Matter into ſome inveterate ulcers produce permanent cure?

Mr. W. had the Small-pox, without inoculation, about twenty years ago, of which ſome ſlight veſtiges ſtill remain.

Case Second.—On the 4th of February laſt, Mrs. B. applied to me to inoculate her child, who was then about five months old. She ſaid ſhe was very much alarmed, for the Small-pox a few days ago had appeared in the neighbourhood where ſhe lived, and two children had died of them. At this time I happened to be out of matter, and could not procure any for three days. On the 7th of February the child was inoculated in both arms, with freſh matter taken immediately from the arm of another child and applied to her.

I ſaw her again on the fourth day after the inoculation, when ſhe appeared to be in a very high fever, and had continued ſo for two days. I ſuſpected, as ſhe was near to patients who had the

the Small-pox, that ſhe might probably have caught the infection, prior to the inoculation with the Cow-pox. I examined her body carefully, but could perceive no eruptions that could confirm my ſuſpicions.

On the fifth day, however, the fever had begun to abate, and the eruption appeared: She had about a hundred diſtinct puſtules on her whole body; theſe continued for about ſeven or eight days, and then dryed and ſcaled off; during which time ſhe was in good health: the Vaccine Inoculation had alſo taken effect, and both arms inflamed, and went through the ſame ſtages as if no other diſeaſe had exiſted. On the eleventh day after the inoculation, I opened the puſtules, and extracted a quantity of matter from them, with which I inoculated ſeveral others, who all took the Cow-pox in the uſual way, without any other eruption whatever.

I made enquiry in the neighbourhood of the place where Mrs. B. lived, concerning the patients from whom her child had caught the infection, and I found that all of them had been extremely ill. That out of eleven, five had died, and the other ſix had eſcaped very narrowly. It was Mrs. B's fourth child; her two firſt had died of the Small-pox; they were a year old: the third is living, but very much marked by them.

May not the inoculating with Vaccine Matter in caſes where we ſuſpect that the patients are infected with the Small-pox, render that diſeaſe more mild than it would otherwiſe be?

I am, &c.

Paisley, March 27, 1801. R. WATT.

The following Address, with the GOLD MEDAL, *voted by the Naval Medical Officers, has been presented to Dr. Jenner. Subjoined is a Liſt of theſe Gentlemen in Support of the New Inoculation.*

To Dr. JENNER.

SIR,

YOU are, perhaps, no ſtranger to the information of the new Inoculation being directed throughout the Navy by Admiralty authority. The inquiries which had been inſtituted in the Channel for the laſt ſeven years, had called the attention of the ſurgeons to guard againſt the introduction of the Small-Pox

Pox among ſeamen; which in more than a hundred inſtances during that time, had been imported by ſhips; twenty of theſe have occurred within the laſt ſix months in this fleet only. Amidſt ſubjects ſo ill prepared for its reception, more than the common proportion of deaths has been the conſequence.—Such was the tenor of our reſearches, when Dr. Jenner announced to the world the Vaccine Inoculation as a *preſervative* againſt variolous infection: *Tandem venias augur Apollo.*

As far as the new practice has extended among us, it has been followed with the uſual ſucceſs, and ſo mild, that the ſubjects of it have not been conſidered in the number of ſick on the liſt. But the value of conducting the Vaccine Inoculation with ſpirit and perſeverance throughout the navy, may be beſt eſtimated by calculating the ſeamen at 10,000, who are unconſcious of having had the Small Pox; in this proportion I am juſtified by the experience of muſters in infected ſhips. How dignified the councils of any nation, that by timely precaution ſhall ward off ſo much probable human miſery!

The medical officers have not been paſſive ſpectators of an event ſo ſingular in the hiſtory of animated nature; an event which the Philoſopher will contemplate with wonder, and the friend of his ſpecies view with exultation. Although ſecluded by their office from the earlieſt communication with the progreſs of medical ſcience, what relates to the Vaccine Diſeaſe has been earneſtly ſought after; and the whole of your opinions and practice have excited uncommon attention amongſt us. I am therefore requeſted to preſent you, in the name of theſe gentlemen, with a GOLD MEDAL, and ſuitable devices; at once expreſſive *of their ſentiments in favour of the New Inoculation; and to commemorate its introduction into this department of public ſervice.** With the more pleaſure I comply with the wiſhes of my worthy aſſociates, as I am confident that no token of reſpect beſtowed on a benefactor of the human race, was ever conferred from more honourable or diſintereſted motives. It will not be the leſs acceptable to Dr. Jenner, that it comes from a body of officers connected by the exerciſe of their profeſſion with the moſt brilliant period of our naval annals. As far as their authority has influence, they thus offer their warmeſt ſup-

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* The medal repreſents Apollo as the God of Phyſic, introducing a young ſeaman recovered from the *Vaccine Inoculation* to Britannia, who, in return, extends a civic crown, on which is written, "JENNER." Above, "ALBA NAUTIS STELLA REFULSIT." Below, "1801."

On the reverſe, an anchor; over it, "GEORGIO TERTIO REGE;" and under it, "SPENCER DUCE;" expreſſing the royal navy in the reign of George the Third, and naval adminiſtration of Earl Spencer.

port to the cauſe. The progreſs of truth is ſometimes ſlow, but always certain. It is not in the nature of medical inveſtigation long to reſiſt the evidence of facts; and it is far leſs the province of medicine to check the current of charitable feelings, or to circumſcribe the duties of benevolence. We muſt therefore hope, that while the liberal diſcuſſion it has undergone ſhall ſecure the ſuffrages of the enlightened mind, the love of offſpring will confirm its favourable reception throughout domeſtic life.

Accept, Sir, in the name of my naval friends, my hearty congratulations on the honours that await your profeſſional exertions. May the preſent age have the juſtice and public ſpirit to remunerate what poſterity will be glad to appreciate; may the Medical Faculty have virtue and candour ſufficient to acknowledge the value of your labours; may your example be a model to the riſing members of that profeſſion which you adorn; and may you be bleſſed with length of days to ſee your diſcoveries the means of abridging and preventing diſeaſe, pain, and deformity throughout the habitable globe.

Incloſed, I have the honour to tranſmit a liſt of the medical gentlemen, and their ſtations in his Majeſty's naval ſervice. I beg, with all perſonal eſteem and regard, to ſubſcribe myſelf,

Sir, Your, &c.

T. TROTTER.

Plymouth Dock, Feb. 20, 1801.

NAVAL SUBSCRIBERS to the JENNERIAN MEDAL, 1801.

Dr. Thomas Trotter, Phyſician of the Fleet.

Names.	*Ships, &c.*	*Names.*	*Ships, &c.*
Wm. Hill, Surg.	Edgar	Dr. T. Kein	Royal George
James Veitch	Doris	B. M'Keirman	Prince
F. M. Chevers	Robuſt	B. M'Laughlan	Achille
W. Robertſon	Garland	H. Watſon	Cambridge
W. Hamilton	Clyde	W. Muſgrave	Triton
J. M'Intoſh	Galatea	J. Fraquhar	Captain
R. Allan	Oiſeau	C. Cooke	Penguin
A. Denmark	Viper	H. Hughes	Marlborough
T. Smith	Nimrod	T. Thong	Renard
J. Embling	Hoſp. Torbay	R. Cuming	Leyden
R. Hardwike	Magnificent	Dr. E. Boys	Hoſp. Deale
S. Hammick, jun.	Royal Hoſpital	W. M'Curdy	Pr. George
R. Lloyd	Barfleur	D. M. Bell	Indefatigable
An Admirer of Vaccinia		Dr. C. Cudlip	Mill Priſon
		G. Bellamy	Spencer
T. Stewart	Pr. Frederick	J. Milligan	Malta

J. Bury

Names.	Ships, &c.	Names.	Ships, &c.
J. Bury	Unicorn	S. Fowell	Spider
W. Gregory	Thames	W. M'Mullan	Canada
J. Landleſs	Hydra	T. Toſh	Triumph
T. Quin	Loire	T. Willes	Centaur
W. Gray	Nymphe	J. Young	Lion
J. Morgan	Amelia	T. Simpſon	Fiſguard
M. M'Cormick	Immortalite	W. Beatty	Alcmene
W. M'Donald	Montague	A. French	Scout
Ral. Duke	Sprightly	P. Blair	Mars
Dr. J. Snipe	Hoſp. Yarm.	H. Perkin	Urania
P. Cullen	Agamemnon	B. F. Outram	Superb
S. Allen	Albion	T. Mant	Terrible
W. Oaſtler	Spitfire	J. Smithers	Royal Sov.
S. Hammick, ſen.	Royal Hoſpital	J. Allen	Formidable
G. M'Garth	Ruſſel	T. Watherſton	Temeraire
R. Burke	Acteon	D. Fleming	Impeteux
W. Dingwall	Nemeſis	R. Carruthers	Wareham
J. Leggat	Overyſſel	J. Home	Suffiſante
J. Scott	Audacious	G. Turnbull	Venerable
A. Leſlie	Hazard	R. Thompſon	Childers
J. Boone	Solebay	Dr. M. Felix	Neptune
D. Cowan	Eurydice	D. M'Arthur	Naiad
D. S. M'Carthy	Beaulieu	R. Palin	Sylph
W. Nepecker	Juſte	M. Morgan	Mill Priſon
J. Nutt	Cæſar	F. Butt	Dragon
W. B. Smith	Pompee	R. Fairfoul	Cleopatra
R. Allen	Orion	Dr. Douglas Whyte, Conſtantinople.	
A. L. Jack	Eſpeigle		
J. Lind	Majeſtic		

On the reputed Anti-epileptic Power of Argentum Nitratum.

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

IF you ſhould coincide with me in opinion, that medical ſcience is not leſs advantageouſly promoted by faithfully recording inſtances of unſucceſsful practice, than by anxiouſly detailing ſucceſsful caſes, you will, probably, deem the ſubſequent narrative of the inſufficiency of the nitrate of ſilver, (Argentum Nitratum) in the cure of Epilepſy, not unworthy of public notice.

The

The reputation which this chemical compound has acquired for its ſalutary influence in ſubduing this diſeaſe, reſts on the authority of conſiderable experience, and has been recently corroborated by communications in your Journal, from Drs. Cappe and Boſtock,* men whoſe acquaintance I highly value, and whoſe judgement and veracity claim my utmoſt deference. Warranted by ſuch credible evidence in its favour, I lately entered on its uſe in two caſes of epileptic affection, with more than my accuſtomed confidence in medicinal efficiency, even when oppoſed to leſs formidable difficulties.

The firſt caſe in which its employ came under my direction, was that of an elderly woman, of a weakly temperament, but not vitiated by any habitual diſorder, who had been afflicted with epileptic attacks at irregular intervals, during about eighteen months; they uſually recurred once a week, occaſionally oftener, and a reſpite of ten days had been very rarely experienced. Neither the violence nor duration of the paroxyſms offered any thing remarkable; nor were the ſubſequent inconveniences in any reſpect extraordinary.

This patient began with half a grain of the nitrate of ſilver, formed into a pill with crumb of bread, and was ordered to repeat it at equal diſtances, three times a day; each doſe during the firſt day, induced afflicting ſickneſs, without the alleviation of vomiting. Diſcouraged by this unexpected occurrence, the patient could only be perſuaded to proſecute the medicine, by being aſſured that it was accidental, and not due to its ordinary operation. Suſpecting that ſome inaccuracy had happened in diſpenſing the preſcription, enquiry was made, when it appeared, that in the abſence of the apothecary to whom it was ſent, a perſon not ſufficiently converſant with medicinal compoſition, had probably exceeded the quantity directed. The utmoſt exactneſs was then obſerved in preparing the pills, which were taken as before, but without any ſenſible effect: No variation was made in the doſe for three days; and no influence, during that time, was manifeſted by the medicine. It was then augmented to one grain three times a day; this was continued a week, in the courſe of which, a paroxyſm, as uſual, occurred, and no impreſſion was felt from the medicine. It was now increaſed to two grains at ſimilar intervals, and perſiſted in upwards of ten days; ſlight ſickneſs was occaſionally experienced, but no difference was induced either in the periods of recurrence, or the violence of the epileptic fits. The doſe was ultimately extended to three grains, at the diſtances before ſtated, and

* See Medical and Phyſical Journal, Vol. I. pages 184, 222.

and prosecuted about three weeks, without any other proof of efficiency, than that of transient heat in the stomach, and slight nausea soon after taking it.

It will appear from the preceding statement, that the nitrate of silver was in this case freely exhibited, and its employ sufficiently protracted for its full effect to have been produced; its complete failure, therefore, authorises the conclusion, that in this instance of epileptic affection it was wholly destitute of curative power.

The second epileptic case in which the nitrate of silver was put to the test of experiment by my advice, was that of a young man, about thirty years of age, of a robust temperament, and free from any other habitual disease: The disorder commenced in his infancy, and accompanied every stage of his growth to the state of manhood, with but little variation either in the violence, frequency, or duration of the paroxysms. It was considered as a rare occurrence for a week to elapse without an attack; several usually happened during that period. The disease seemed at length to have acquired an harmless familiarity with the general health, and the intervals of its recurrence were not ruffled by any sensible degree of morbid derangement.

As may be supposed in the course of so long a period as twenty-five years, every chance of relief was afforded, which either reflection or accident could devise or supply; no lasting benefit, however, had been obtained. Although the duration of the disease presented every difficulty which an established association of morbid movements could engender, the apparently unimpaired state of the general health induced me to suppose that no irremediable organic læsion had been produced. Under this persuasion, without holding out the possibility of speedy aid, or of even promising ultimate benefit, I judged it expedient to afford the patient a full chance of any advantage that might result from the successive employ (if necessary) of various efficient medicines. Pursuant to this design, digitalis, opium, cuprum vitriolatum, zincum calcinatum, acidum sulphuricum, argentum nitratum, hyoscyamus niger, and cicuta, were severally directed; the doses, intervals of administration, length of continuance, and results of each of which, were as here specified. Digitalis was taken from one grain to five, by slow augmentation three times a day, for six weeks, during which time occasional giddiness was experienced, but without nausea, or discoverable retardation of pulse; the intervals of the paroxysms were lengthened to about ten days, and the attacks were less violent.

Opium was taken from one grain to three, by gradual increase

crease three times a day, during a fortnight, in which time but one slight fit recurred; but the pulse was rendered unusually full and slow, and an irresistible propensity to sleep, with a threatening dilatation of the pupils ensued.

The digitalis and opium were now directed in conjunction, in doses of two grains each, three times a day, and continued for two months, during which time two paroxysms only returned; but this extraordinary suspension seemed to have been purchased at the expence of an alarming degree of vertiginous affection.

The cuprum vitriolatum was taken from one grain to five, during three weeks, three times a day, with the effect of inducing occasional nausea, and an herpetic determination on the cuticular surface; but no perceptible variation in the epileptic paroxysms.

The zincum calcinatum was taken from five to fifteen grains, three times a day, for three weeks, without any observable influence on the disease.

The acidum sulphuricum was taken from thirty drops to two drachms, largely diluted with water, three times a day during one month, with the effect of shifting the period of recurrence a few days later than the previous time of accession; but it may be remarked, that the patient, judging from his improved feelings of personal strength and mental energy, expressed more confidence in the curative power of this medicine than in any thing which had been before administered.

The argentum nitratum was now taken, from half a grain to four grains three times a day for one month, without discovering the *smallest influence*, either in arresting or modifying the epileptic paroxysms, and with no other effect than that of inducing more or less durable sensation of burning heat in the stomach.

The hyoscyamus niger was taken in substance from one grain to ten, three times a day during six weeks, in which time but two paroxysms recurred, and these with diminished violence and duration; but in the last week of its employ, a degree of vertiginous stupor supervened, which seemed to indicate that the progressive agency of this medicine was more likely to superinduce a dangerous malady than radically to alter the unknown distempered conditions of vital motion, that form the proximate cause of epilepsy.

The cicuta was given in the form of inspissated juice (succus cicutæ spissatus), from five grains to fifteen, three times a day for one month; latterly it induced temporary giddiness, but the paroxysms returned with increased frequency and violence during its employ.

The

The purpose of entering into this detail of the various effects of the different substances employed, is to exhibit a comparative view of the inefficiency of the argentum nitratum. The cuprum vitriolatum, zincum calcinatum and cicuta were its congeners in inertness, or at least complete insufficiency for affecting any salutary change in the disease. It may be objected, that two cases do not afford adequate experience for determining the powers of a medicinal agent; this must be admitted, but its force will be obviated by my offering them as a *contribution* only to the more extensive evidence of similar inefficacy adduced by the ingenious and accurate Dr. Magennis, in a late number of your Journal.* In that communication is recorded testimony on this subject, that demonstrates a diligence of research and tenaciousness of truth but rarely combined, yet essentially requisite to the practical investigation of medicinal power.

In having my opinion biassed by actual observation, and the admissible authority cited against the reputed efficacy of argentum nitratum in the cure of epileptic affection, it is not my wish to deny it the possibility of proving remedial under certain constitutional circumstances (not yet explained) favourable to its salutary operation; but this qualification divests it of all pretension to invariable effect, or to any influence that approaches to the character of specific power, and reduces it to the standard of all other efficient medicinal agents, that of occasionally inducing changes in the morbid actions of animal life that lead to the regeneration of health.

It would be important to distinguish what temperamental, morbid, or accidental circumstances are most conducive to the curative influence of argentum nitratum in this disease; until this information be furnished, the experience under this consideration authorises the expectation, that the indiscriminate employ of this agent in epilepsy will be more precarious in its effects, than may be presumed from the use of several other medicinal substances of acknowledged power in certain diseases, such as the cinchona in intermittent fever, mercury in syphilis, opium in morbid excess of sensibility, digitalis in pulmonary consumption, &c. Were, indeed, as much ascertained of the most beneficially operative powers of argentum nitratum as of these enumerated, the respective incertitude of effect common to them all would yet attach to it, and render it at best a medicine of doubtful agency.

It will not be alleged, that uncertainty of operation is inapplicable to the most efficacious articles of the Materia Medica. It

* See the Medical and Physical Journal, No. XXI. page 417.

It will be recollected, that organic susceptibility for medicinal impressions is, even *constitutionally*, widely various, and, *habitually*, infinitely different. On this diversity, then, rests the greater or less discordancy of influence from similar agents.—The degrees of dissimilarity in animal excitability, in different subjects, may range to the opposite extremes of being fatally and inertly impressed by the same substance; but the shades of resemblance that remotely link, and progressively assimilate the likeness, afford a scale on which may present every intermediate variety. Hence, where most temperamental analogy subsists, will be most uniformity of medicinal operation from any particular agent. This reasoning is not confined to different individuals, but applies with equal force to the same subject, to whom changes of susceptibility are perpetually liable to occur, which might vary, or even contrast, the effect of a former remedy.

What happens hourly must abound, and documents commensurate with this vast source of accumulation croud in proof of the practical fact, *that no invariably curative or specific power, as it has been termed, has ever existed*; *and in the nature of things, never can.*

The interests of humanity, as well as the just principles and dignity of medical science, imperiously demand a decided distrust in substances so often palmed on public attention for infallible remedies. The laws of animal life, however elementarily similar, are so variously operative in dissimilar constitutions and temperaments, as to render the desideratum of uniform efficiency from an occasionally beneficial medicine absolutely unattainable; rational empiricism will, therefore, be guarded in predicting the accomplishment of cures, though reiterated experience might afford a probable presumption of such an event.

Were it not that inscrutable causes are insensibly generating, and infinitely diversifying the motive powers of animal life, the original simplicity and ordinances of Nature might be steadily manifested, and constantly recognised; every disease would then assume a relative identity of character, and every appropriate remedy would be universally applicable. But, unhappily, this primitive perfection is no longer to be found in the prevailing physical and moral degeneracy of mankind. It is in the motley group of deviations that judicious experience is to search for medicinal efficacy, and to calculate the frequency of definite power.

When a medicinal substance promises to be extraordinarily salutary, it will be of the utmost practical moment to ascertain the precise circumstances in which its curative operation obtains,

tains, and the average chance under the ordinary dissimilarity of constitutions for similar effects to occur in different individuals; thus, if the powers of an agent should so far transcend slight diversities of temperament, as to induce a decided influence on the organic motions of life in a majority of instances, it will justify a well-founded presumption in its effects; but yet will not warrant confident reliance. The language and expectation to be held on the power of medicine, should be invariably attempted with doubt, which would suitably provide for every contingency.

Argentum nitratum can no more than other relatively active substances, aspire to any higher character than that of possessing *casual power* only in the cure of Epilepsy; therefore, the peculiar temperamental and morbid circumstances that favour its curative influence, and the probable frequency of their coincidence, conjointly constitute the whole of the practical knowledge that either possibly can, or need, be required to comprehend the scope and energy of its medicinal operation.

I am, &c.

R. KINGLAKE.

Chilton, super Poldon,
April 3, 1801.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

A Work pursued with zeal, conducted with candour, and executed with ability, at once interests the reader, and claims his best endeavours toward its support. Give me leave, in unison with multitudes of my brethren, to attach this character to your Journal; and in offering this equitable tribute to its merits, allow me to present to you for publication the following cases, as samples whereby to judge in what degree this tribute should be appreciated. I must first, however, felicitate the ingenious and liberal-minded of the Faculty on their having a mode of conveying their sentiments to the world so favourable and ready as your Journal manifestly affords; seeing that they must be sensible, that it is a duty which they owe to society (in return for what they reap) to make public, without reserve and without delay, the harvest of their labours, whether theoretical or practical, provided it tend to throw additional light on the nature and cure of diseases.

The cases treating of *Digitalis* are selected, on account of medical

medical practitioners being at present remarkably occupied about the operative and curative properties of this plant. The last case is communicated as being curious and extraordinary, not having, within the compass of my reading and recollection, a parallel in the records of Medicine. I am, &c.

Londonderry, March 31, 1801. W. PATTERSON.

CASE I.

ISABELLA M'GOWAN, aged 24 years, admitted into the Hospital January 4, 1796, since the preceding September has been gradually growing melancholy and sullen; is choleric and intractable with her kindred, but pacific and manageable amongst strangers; her countenance is gloomy and peculiarly glouting; pulse regular; bowels natural; and, if she do not sleep, at least she lies quiet in bed at night. She had lain-in about two months before the approaches of mental derangement were noticed; soon afterwards her husband emigrated to America, leaving her burthened with three young children; the breast-milk suddenly vanished; and she had disputes with the husband's relations respecting some property he left behind. She is not emaciated; says she has no ailment; but her answers are generally very indistinct and incongruous.

A variety of medicines, as purges, vomits, blisters, opiates, fetids, and mercurials to the extent of salivation, were employed with very little advantage from the time of admission until the 11th of May following, when the use of *Digitalis* was commenced, and two grains administered, morning and night, till eight doses were taken, without producing either visible effect or operation. The dose was gradually augmented, until it was brought to eight grains twice a day; but being withdrawn from the hospital at this juncture, no satisfactory observation could be made on the operation of the medicine, which, however, was continued at home, where, in a short time, she showed signs of returning reason, which was restored by degrees, and which happy change her friends ascribed to perseverance in the employment of the Digitalis. This patient did not require a strait-waistcoat.

CASE II.

MARGARET HENEY, aged 37 years, admitted into the hospital May 28, 1799, was delivered of a child six months past, and four days after delivery got a fright, which was succeeded by a tedious fever. About three weeks ago she was attacked with

with insanity. Her pulse is small and slow; countenance pale and dejected; not furious, but very talkative; has some periods of rationality; speaks on certain topics with tolerable sense; and her memory is not much enfeebled.

As in the case of M'Gowan, sundry medicines were employed without material benefit during the space of a month, at the end of which *Digitalis* was prescribed, and near three grains were given morning and evening for thirty-nine days; in the course of which, two grains of opium, combined with calomel and antimonial tartar, were given at bed-time, to obviate sleepless nights. Observing no curative effect from these measures, a large plaster of cantharides was applied to the head, and four grains of opium were ordered at night; and as this also availed little, a drachm of etherial vitriolic spirit, mixed with forty gts. of tinct. opii, was directed to be given three times a day; and afterwards the scalp was covered with another blistering plaster.

The patient was now taken home, and her friends were enjoined to give her at night, two grains of opium, in conjunction with three of asafœtida, and one and a half of calomel. In seventeen days a ptyalism was produced; she sometimes attended to domestic business, but in general was inattentive, and sometimes outrageous. When the salivation abated, *ten* grains of Digitalis with six of ginger were ordered to be given three times a day. The 2d of October her husband came to the hospital to report the effects of the prescription, which, he said, were really extraordinary. One or two doses operated violently both by purging and vomiting, caused dimness of sight and pain in the head, attended with such extreme debility that she thought herself dying, and at the same time declared that she felt her senses (as she expressed it) perfectly restored, which her husband affirmed was actually the case, whilst under the influence of the medicine. But no sooner did this influence decay than the derangement returned, accompanied with the same loquacious propensity, and often with paroxysms of rage.

Although the primary operation of the medicine was so desperate, its use was cautiously continued until the number of doses, eighteen, which had been prescribed, were consumed, but without producing equally lucid intervals. No farther report was received till the 13th of November, when circumstances were recounted resembling the preceding in most respects, except that the gleams of intellect were not so observable as on the first administration. Nine doses of the herb were then given; and, having had no succeeding intelligence of the patient, I conclude that her reason was retrieved, other-

wiſe her friends, who were very ſolicitous to give her medicine, would not have ceaſed coming for ſupplies. This lunatic frequently required confinement in a dark cell, and ſometimes the coercion of a ſtrait-waiſtcoat.

CASE III.

The effects of Digitalis in the two preceding caſes, encouraged me to try it in the caſe of Cath. McDade, a married woman, aged about 30 years, whoſe derangement had ſubſiſted two or three years before her introduction into the hoſpital. When ſhe was brought to the houſe, a very imperfect account was given of her previous ſituation; but it then appeared, that her inſanity was very different from the melancholy ſpecies; for ſhe was garrulous in the extreme, prone to inceſſant dancing and ſinging, with a briſk penetrating eye, and a bold deportment, but not a miſchievous diſpoſition; always happy, and never complaining. Her appetite was good, and her ſleep generally regular. The only exciting cauſe of her malady that I could diſcover, came out when her reaſon was in ſome meaſure reclaimed, which was, as herſelf related, an imputation againſt her fidelity to the marriage vow.

Nearly three grains of Digitalis were adminiſtered thrice a day, for the ſpace of ſix days, at the expiration of which, tokens of returning reaſon appeared, but the operative effect of the plant could not be well aſcertained. However, the remedy was perſiſted in for ſome weeks, and the conſequence was a revival of rationality in as great a degree as her conſtitution will admit, by which ſhe is rendered capable of ſpinning, waſhing, and doing other ſervile offices in the houſe.

CASE IV.

In March, 1800, H. T. Eſq. aged 62 years, middle ſtature, wan viſage, ſpare ſhape, diligent, and much expoſed to cold and fatigue, had a ſharp pneumonic inflammation, from which he was reſcued by one moderate veneſection, a bliſter, calomel, purges, acetated ammonia, ſmall doſes of tartariſed antimony, gum arabic, diluting drinks, and vegetable aliment. Shortly after recovery from this diſorder, his feet began to ſwell when ſitting out of bed; the ſwelling ſoon extended half way up his legs, and in two or three days more, it proceeded to the trunk. On examination, the ſwelling in the lower extremities was found to be anaſarcous, and that in the body ſeemed to be of a ſimilar nature, as no fluctuation could be diſtinguiſhed in the cavity of the abdomen. He had not any thirſt; no paucity of urine, though what he paſſed was high coloured;

coloured; ſlept well; ſcarcely any cough; no pain in either ſide of the thorax; and his appetite, eſpecially for dinner, was pretty good.

The uſe of cryſtals of tartar, and the aſſiduous application of frictions, were then recommended, and purſued ſome days; but not being attended with ſufficient advantage, tincture of jalap was added to the cryſtals, ſo as to operate briſkly on the inteſtines, interpoſing between the purges, calomel, nitrat of potaſh, ſquills, ſp. æther. nitroſi, bitters, and infuſions of horſe-radiſh, juniper berries, &c. By theſe means, the tumefactions were reduced in the courſe of two months, and he continued in tolerable health until the latter end of Auguſt, when ſymptoms of the ſame diſeaſe appeared anew, advancing in a pace not to be reſtrained.

On this occaſion of relapſe, not only were employed the generality of the former remedies, but alſo ſome additional ones, amongſt which were different forms of *Digitalis Purpurea*. The firſt preparation of it was the tincture, which was commenced the 9th of November, and which was ordered to be taken, at firſt, in the quantity of fifteen drops twice a day, increaſing five drops each doſe, till they amounted to thirty-five drops; and this number was at length given thrice a day for a few days. After the operation of a purge, an infuſion of the Digitalis was entered on, taking an ounce every ſixth or eighth hour. No advantage being gained by this preparation of the herb, another purge was taken, and a decoction of the freſh leaves was preſcribed; a large table ſpoon full every ſecond hour, for four, ſix, or more times, provided neither ſtomach ſickneſs, dizzineſs, vomiting, diureſis, nor purging would happen to curtail its exhibition. Though a ſenſible impreſſion was the conſequence of the firſt or ſecond doſe, he perſevered until four were taken, when he experienced vaſtly diſtreſſing affections, ſuch as heavy ſtomach ſickneſs, frequent vomiting, confuſion in the head, dimneſs of ſight, and ſtops in the action of the heart. The pulſe of courſe was very unequal and intermittent; there was a great drowſineſs; conſiderable debility; and, what I do not recollect to have before witneſſed, or heard of, as an effect of Digitalis, a moſt irkſome pain in the gums and teeth during ſome hours. The narcotic influence was ſevere for two days, after which it gradually retired, and the preceding general medicines were reſumed, with the addition of mercurial frictions, but with no better reſult.

At length, the tenſion and bulk of the abdomen becoming inſupportable, attended with ſymptoms of increaſing debility, the paracenteſis was performed the 29th of December; thirty-

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one pints of fluid were extracted, and he underwent the evacuation without faintness in spirits or strength. A few hours after the operation, a languor took place, and he continued in a flat, exhausted alarming state during twelve days, when he gained a little ground, and seemed likely to survive some time. At this juncture, recourse was had to preparations of steel, mineral alkali, muriatic acid, mild laxatives, &c. but the morbid accumulation in the abdomen advanced, notwithstanding every endeavour to oppose it. His hopes were now greatly raised by extravagant encomiums that were lavished on a rustic nostrum, the trial of which he therefore commenced, and persisted in the use of it so long, that the harbingers of speedy dissolution precluded the repetition of the palliative of tapping, and the mortal catastrophe happened the 7th of March, 1801.

CASE V.

Mrs. C——, aged about 40 years, a widow, of pale complexion, auburn hair, dark brown eyes, became in the winter, 1799, sensible of the beginning of an illness, which she considered a common cold, and for which she had recourse to the advice of an apothecary, who treated her with the drugs commonly denominated pectorals. Under this administration she continued eight or ten weeks, when I was required to visit the unrelieved patient, and found her affected with quick and uneasy respiration, frequent dry cough, frothy tenacious expectoration, quick wiry pulse, impaired whimsical appetite, fits of vomiting, thirst, and copious morning sweats: but in no part of the thorax did she experience or confess to feel any pain or stricture. My prescriptions were principally one moderate venesection, two small blisters, minute doses of tartarised antimony, sulphuric acid, gum arabic, honey, oil, and as much animal nourishment as the palate and stomach would admit.

Proceeding several weeks on the principles which dictated those measures, and seeing that no ground was gained, except by the disease, which rapidly advanced, I determined to try the virtues of Digitalis. Accordingly, as the stomach of this patient was delicate and irritable, I began, early in April, 1800, with twelve drops of the tincture twice a day, and gradually increased the quantity until it arose to eighteen drops, which produced such disorder in her stomach, that she could not again be prevailed upon to take more than ten or twelve drops for a dose; and soon refusing to make trial even of this number, she ultimately relinquished this, and every other medicine, together with all medical advice. Indeed, there are just grounds for believing that this was a lost case before

before I was called in, as the diſeaſe then aſſumed a formidable aſpect, and yielded not a ſtep to any effort made againſt its progreſs, but went on inflexibly until it conſigned the ſufferer, the middle of the following month, to the cold embraces of the king of terrors.

CASE VI.

June the 2d, 1800, Mary Smyth, aged 60 years, began to take Tinct. Digitalis, which ſhe was directed to do thrice daily, thirty drops for each doſe, in plain water. At this time ſhe laboured under a deſperate fit of aſthma. Her breathing was extremely laborious, ſeemingly ſuffocating; her face bluiſh and bloated; the ends of her fingers were livid; pulſe in the wriſt ſcarcely perceptible, whilſt the carotids throbbed moſt violently; hardly able to cough; expectoration nearly ſuſpended; trunk of the body ſwelled; and the lower extremities very anaſarcous. The firſt doſe of the Digitalis aſſuaged the throbbings of the carotids, the ſecond produced ſome diuretic effect, and the third cauſed a conſiderable flow of urine, ſo copious and ſo conſtant, that the patient was alarmed at the evacuation, whilſt ſhe was aſtoniſhed at the complete and ſudden reduction of the diſeaſe, done, as it were, by a charm. The medicine, at this juncture, produced ſo little ſtomach ſickneſs, that ſhe was able to purſue the uſe of it, without interruption, until about an ounce was conſumed, at which time ſhe was evidently convaleſcent, and ſhortly afterward, by means of diet, and a cautious uſe of the open air, her health was as fully reſtored as her conſtitution reaſonably would admit.

Since that ſalutary change, ſhe has had ſome threatenings of relapſe, but the progreſs of theſe always have been checked by reſuming the Digitalis, which, on theſe latter occaſions, has induced more nauſea and ſtomach affection than it did at firſt; conſequently, at each of thoſe latter adminiſtrations, the uſe of it was ſooner ſuſpended. In October, ſhe was ſo well and ſtrong as to be able to riſe in the night, and act as a nurſe-tender to a lying-in friend, without receiving any injury to her health from the expoſure. In December, ſome threatenings of the dyſpnœa induced her to reſort again to the Digitalis, the occaſional uſe of which keeps the diſorder at bay. In February, 1801, ſhe had an attack of the catarrhus ſenilis, from which ſhe recovered ſo well as to be able at preſent to move about the houſe.

CASE VII.

Lieut. Col. R——, aged 28 years, middle ſtature, ſlim ſhape, ſallow complexion, and liable to retrograde actions of the alimentary

mentary canal. I was called to viſit, June 13, 1800, and found him in bed, affected as follows: A conſiderable tumefaction and tenſion in the abdomen, principally in the epigaſtric region, attended with great ſenſibility on the moſt gentle preſſure, whilſt the region of the bladder, as he lay in bed, was in no degree diſtended nor painful to the touch; languor, faintiſh ſickneſs, when in an erect poſture; and conſiderable thirſt. The pulſe quick and unequal, generally ſmall, but ſometimes a few ſtrokes pretty round and full. Frequent deſire to diſcharge the contents of the bladder, but without any perceptible evacuation of urine, coagulated blood being the only apparent excretion, which was ſometimes voided in remarkable quantity when ſitting on a night-chair. The preceding day he had been expoſed to wet clothes, whilſt heated by field-exerciſe, after which he drank copiouſly of cyder and wine, (to which he was addicted) but without any of the meſs, in this inſtance, having heard him complain of a retention of urine. Thus inebriated, he ſallied forth to collect the regimental band, for the purpoſe of ſerenading; and, it is affirmed, that he attempted hoiſting on his ſhoulders one of his companions, to tap at the window of another officer, in order to get him to make one of the party. In the moment of this exertion, or ſoon afterward, it was repreſented that he grew extremely ſick, from which he ſhortly was relieved by vomiting. However, he was conducted to his lodgings in a very weak, oppreſſed condition, accompanied with a moſt profuſe ſweat, which continued ſome hours.

Mr. Purdon, ſtaff-ſurgeon of the diſtrict, an experienced practitioner, was now ſent for, and he drew a little blood from the arm, ordered an enema, and preſcribed a doſe of Oleum Ricini. Three or four hours afterward, I ſaw the patient, and finding that the oil was vomited, and the enema had no operation, whilſt the unſpeakable diſtreſs attending the above ſymptoms continued, I adviſed fomentations to the abdomen, and another veneſection; in conjunction with which, were directed ſtrong purgative pills, compoſed of ext. colocynth. comp. and calomel. Theſe meaſures produced no good effect; and accordingly, enemas were repeatedly adminiſtered next day, together with a ſcruple of calomel, given by the mouth in two doſes. A warm bath, by means of the ſlipper machine, was, on the third morning, employed, and borne very well, yet unattended with any ſervice; a bliſter was applied on the epigaſtrium; more cathartic pills were preſcribed; and ſtrong mercurial ointment was diligently rubbed in on the trunk and extremities. Theſe were followed by a variety of injections, oleagenous, fœtid, and ſtimulating, without procuring any evacuation of fæces; at length, upon giving one or two aloetic pills, a diſcharge of fluid

fluid excrement commenced, and continued in the form of diarrhœa for ſeveral hours. Mucilaginous, oily, and ætherial preparations, with mild opiates, were occaſionally taken into aid; but, notwithſtanding the moſt ſedulous attention, and the moſt active treatment, he paid the laſt debt of nature in this ſublunary ſtate, in the afternoon of the 16th, in an eaſy, tranquil manner, as if life were abſtracted by a profuſe hæmorrhage.

The ambiguity in which this curious and intricate caſe was involved, led to a diſſection, which was performed next day, of that part only, the abdomen, wherein the diſeaſe appeared to be ſeated. On opening the peritoneum, there iſſued forth a conſiderable quantity of a fluid reſembling bloody ſerum, the greater part of which being preſerved, it was meaſured, and was found to amount to five quarts. The inteſtina tenuia, throughout their whole extent, exhibited a vaſcular redneſs on the exterior tunic, in ſome places to a conſiderable degree, which plainly repreſented a ſtate of inflammation, being manifeſtly different from any dye that might be imparted by the extravaſated fluid. The cæcum and head of the colon were highly inflamed, diſtended, and ſpotted with lividity; the reſt of the colon and appendicula vermiformis were healthy. The ſtomach, the liver with its appendages, and all the other abdominal viſcera, were perfectly ſound, except the *veſica urinaria*; on one ſide of the fundus of which was diſcovered an opening, about two-tenths of an inch, in each direction, with ſome extenuation of the coats in this ſpot, and conſpicuous marks of inflammation ſurrounding the rupture. This breach in the bladder, at once decides the nature of the fluid that eſcaped on the inciſion of the peritonæum, namely, that it was urine tinged with blood.

On this occaſion, ſome queries occur, which I ſhall put to your correſpondents, with a view to gain additional information, ſhould ever ſuch a formidable caſe come in my way hereafter. Was the malady curable? Or was it 'paſt all ſurgery?' Was it attended with any circumſtance conducting to a ſatisfactory diagnoſis? With reſpect to this laſt query, the reader may be reminded, as furniſhing a diagnoſtic ſymptom, that the patient being always examined in a recumbent poſture, no prominency was diſcerned in the hypogaſtric region, ſuch as indicates a bladder diſtended with urine from iſchury. Had examination fortunately been made in an erect ſituation, would not a ſagacious obſerver, combining this with the other particulars in the preceding recital, be led to form an adequate idea of the real cauſe of the calamity?

Hydrocephalus Internus.

In the Third Vol. of the Medical Journal, p. 113, commences a reſpectable communication, in which the author, Mr. White, of Bath, laments not only the frequent inſidious and equivocal nature of the ſymptoms of this diſeaſe, but alſo the oppoſite opinions reſpecting its proximate cauſe, which are ſtill entertained by medical writers. On this occaſion, I take leave to refer Mr. White to a ſmall Tract, which I publiſhed at Gilbert's Medical Library, in Dublin, in the ſummer of 1794, and in which he will find the characteriſtic marks of the diſeaſe pointed out, the proximate cauſe traced to inflammatory action, and other circumſtances relating to it, aſcertained in ſuch manner as might have unravelled and obviated the perplexities which he deplores, had the Tract fallen in his way. There he would have ſeen to whom we are indebted for the germ of knowledge concerning the nature of the malady; for the firſt hints of applying mercury in dropſical caſes as an agent on the abſorbent powers; for the early uſe of that mineral as a remedy in the febrile diſeaſes of children, attended with a *lethargic dulness* and *sleepiness*; and for its ſtill more early employment, in conſiderable doſes, as a purgative. There he will ſee, that the ideas aſſumed by Darwin, Beddoes, Ruſh, &c. were conceived, explained, and laid before the public, prior to the publication of the ſentiments of thoſe diſtinguiſhed phyſicians. Within the laſt ſix years, ſeveral more caſes and illuſtrations have occurred to the writer of this article, which he hopes to have an opportunity of publiſhing on ſome future day.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following Caſe ſhould be deemed ſufficiently intereſting to merit inſertion in the Medical Journal, as giving a conciſe ſtatement of a diſeaſe not very frequently occurring in private practice, or terminating favorably, I ſhall feel myſelf happy in having communicated it. I am, &c.

Chelmsford, Feb. 12, 1801. GEORGE WELSH.

In July laſt, I was requeſted to attend a young married lady of delicate frame and habit, and who was far advanced in her

her pregnancy of a ſecond child. Shortly after, I was ſent to, and informed ſhe had been unwell ſome hours, with trifling pains, which her friends were apprehenſive would terminate in labour. Upon my arrival, I found the os tincæ open, and the head of the child low down, preceded by the membranes, which protruded in the form of a ſmall bag, diſtended by the liquor amnii. As her pains had not been ſtrong, but recurred at ſhort intervasl, the os uteri had dilated gradually, and the labour advanced ſlowly; but by rupturing the membranes, the waters were evacuated, and her pains growing ſtronger, ſhe was, in about two hours after, delivered. On dividing the funis to remove the child, I was extremely ſurpriſed to find the uterus completely inverted, and laying without the labia, on the thigh, with the placenta firmly adhering to its fundus; and my patient low and weak, with ſickneſs and frequent fainting fits. I could not but feel ſenſibly the danger of her ſituation, of which I apprized her friends, and expreſſed a wiſh, that a friend of mine in the town, (Mr. Bird) who deſervedly poſſeſſes the higheſt character for profeſſional abilities, might be alſo employed; but as ſhe declined any other aſſiſtance, I endeavoured to ſeparate the placenta, which was ſoon effected, and as the veſſels did not bleed much, the uterus was returned without any very conſiderable hæmorrhage; but as her fainting fits and ſickneſs continued with a low and weak pulſe, which was at times almoſt imperceptible, I directed a cordial draught to be given, with Tinct. Opii et Liquor Vol. Cornu cervi, aa. gts. xx. and in the courſe of a very few hours had the ſatisfaction to find her tolerably eaſy, more cheerful, and her pulſe conſiderably ſtronger. On the following morning I ſaw her, and found ſhe had paſſed a quiet night, though without ſleep; had ſuffered but little from the after-pains, and was free from fever, but with great languor and debility: her ſickneſs and faintings had not recurred. I directed a continuance of cordial medicines. The next day ſhe was conſiderably amended, and eaſier; had ſlept during the night; had paſſed urine without pain, and did not complain of uneaſineſs in the parts. Her pulſe was much ſtronger; and the uterine diſcharge not more copious than is uſual; nor did ſhe experience a much greater degree of inconvenience than generally reſults from labour to delicate women; but as ſhe had not had ſtools, I directed an enema to be adminiſtered, which had the wiſhed effect.

From this time ſhe continued rapidly to mend; and by taking the bark in as light a form as her ſtomach would bear, was ſoon enabled to uſe exerciſe, and reſtored to her former ſtate of health.

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On enquiry, I learned the inverſion was to be attributed to a naturally lax habit, and the placenta having been too forcibly extracted at a former period,—a circumſtance I was not acquainted with till ſome days after her delivery.

I have the pleaſure to add, my patient enjoys good health at preſent, and feels no particular inconvenience from an accident ſo alarming, and to which ſhe will moſt probably be hereafter ſubject on thoſe occaſions.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER the very candid manner in which the utility of Cow-pock inoculation has been inveſtigated, it will appear, perhaps, ſuperfluous for me to trouble you with any additional obſervations; but as the following ſubject has long been the theme of diſcuſſion, and appears at preſent undecided, it may not be altogether improper to offer a mite of information on a ſubject ſo intereſting to the community.

It is nearly admitted as an axiom, that where puſtules have appeared in the Vaccine Inoculation, variolous matter has occaſioned them, and there have been ſome ſo illiberal and injudicious, as to cenſure the new inoculation on this trivial pretext. An extenſive practice has confirmed me in an opinion which I have long adopted, that it is immaterial whether the virus be taken from the inciſed part or from another puſtule, as the diſeaſe occaſioned by either proves (unleſs ſome manifeſt cauſe to the contrary exiſts in the conſtitution) equally benign.

It is a point of no ſmall importance to aſcertain the real cauſe of theſe eruptions; and having peruſed the publications of various gentlemen who aſcribe theſe appearances to the unknown introduction of variola, it becomes a ſubject not only curious but intereſting, to determine how it is, that matter taken from the teats of the cow, on *a new lancet*, or *penknife*, and inſerted with the ſame inſtrument, ſhall produce in five caſes out of fifty,* eruptions from ten to a hundred, &c.

On the other hand, ſeveral cautious and experienced ſurgeons have obſerved inſtances of Cow-pock eruption, when the infection has been taken from the animal and introduced in

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* Practitioners in general, at preſent, inſtead of five caſes out of fifty, would ſay, *one case out of a thouſand*, ſuppoſing the Inoculation done properly. ED.

in the moſt preciſe manner, and have declared themſelves ſufficiently ſatisfied that they aroſe from the introduction of pure Vaccine. I confeſs, I know not what to think on the ſubject and ſhall only relate a few inſtances that appear to merit your ſerious attention.

CASE 1 and 2. Two of the ſervants of Mr. Butcher, of Steeple-Claydon, inoculated themſelves with matter from the cow. The uſual appearances ſucceeded; they had pain in the axilla, and conſtitutionl fever on the eighth day; and on the tenth, one of them had five or ſix eruptions on each arm, and a few more on the breaſt: the other had five only. Some of theſe eruptions aſſumed different appearances; for, on one ſubject, they were filled with lymph, and others were diſtinguiſhable by a variolous-like aſpect and circular inflammation, and ſcabbed on the fourteenth day.

CASE 3. The ſervant of Mr. Roads, of Claydon, caught the infection by milking, and had the uſual appearances, with nearly twenty puſtules on one hand and arm.

CASE 4. Mrs. Butcher, of Claydon, inoculated herſelf about three weeks ſince, from a girl who had received the diſeaſe from the cow; and I ſaw her arm about twelve days after, with a few complete puſtules on it.

CASE 5 and 6. I inoculated Mr. and Mrs. Verney, of Stewkly, a few months ſince, with matter tranſmitted to me by Mr. Lawford of Layton, and both had eruptions.

CASE 7. Mr. Turner's maid-ſervant, of Winſlow, was inoculated the 6th of March, and had in ten days five or ſix puſtules.

CASE 8 and 9. I inoculated two of Mr. Sears's children, of Stewkly; and after, in the courſe of a few days, there was a conſiderable eruption on both.

Theſe are plain and important truths, and ſuch as muſt neceſſarily convince the moſt incredulous of the non-exiſtence of variola, and that theſe appearances are a concomitant of the genuine Cow-pock. I recollect when I ſaw Mr. Jenner, (nephew to the Doctor) at Tuſmore, I related to him one or two inſtances; and he obſerved, if I am not very much miſtaken, that he had witneſſed ſuch circumſtances from a deep inſertion of the virus. But there is a material difference between a raſh ariſing from cuticular inflammation and eruptions filled with a ſpecific virus capable of producing conſtitutional diſeaſe. Neither can they be ſuppoſed to ariſe from an inordinate uſe of the matter, or that too much had been introduced, although by many denominated the real cauſe; for there muſt be a certain quantity of contagion applied to produce conſtitutional affection; and it has never been found, either in the inoculation of the Small or Cow Pock, that the ſeverity of the diſeaſe depended on the quota inſerted, or that puſtules were to be attributed

buted to this caufe. A fufficiency to produce the difeafe muft be applied, but its fubfequent influence is explicable by very different circumftances. It will not unfrequently happen that a furgeon may inoculate numbers without the leaft appearance of eruption, and yet matter, however cautioufly taken from either of the patients, will in fome produce many eruptions; and it will occafionally occur, that whole families inoculated with Small-pox will experience the diforder in its mildeft form, and vice verfa.

I confefs, unlefs very fubftantial evidence is adduced to prove that eruptions are the effect of variola, (for at prefent nothing more than conjecture has been advanced) I fhall ftill hefitate, and from one very fatisfactory reafon. Allowing that by means unknown, a portion (be it ever fo fmall) of Small-pox virus has been introduced into the fyftem, and that the eruptions are Small-pox eruptions, how comes it to pafs, contrary to all received opinion, that this introduction of variola produces the diforder—*free from contagion?* How can it be reconciled with common fenfe, that a patient inoculated with Small-pox matter, and having puftules, fhall fleep with another, be in conftant fociety, and yet never fpread the difeafe? It cannot be fuppofed, becaufe Vaccine virus is blended with it, that it deftroys contagion, the well known principle of Small-pox; there cannot be an intermediate, for either the difeafe is wholly variolous, or not at all; and if variolous, why not contagious; for if the leaft quota of variola is abforbed, and conftitutional affection fupervenes, no power can prevent infection. Neither in the cafes recited did the appearances on the arms juftify the conclufion, for the incifed part bore the characteriftic marks of pure Vacciola. It is but feldom in this part of the country that, previous to the inoculation for Cow-pox, any courfe of medicine is entered on; and perhaps no plaufible reafon can be affigned why it is omitted. I do not pretend to determine the real caufe of eruptions, I only *know* in the cafes alluded to, the Small-pox ferment never entered the fluids; but I think it not altogether improbable that they may be partly occafioned by certain circumftances of the fkin that determine an undue quantity of the Cow-pock matter either to remain or pafs through, and that purgatives, by diminifhing the determination, may have confiderable influence in preventing their appearance. In fact, it is more confiftent with common obfervation to fuppofe that fanguine plethora, free living, and too great proportion of ftimuli may, in conjunction with caufes hitherto undifcovered, have produced eruptions, than the common conjecture of Small-pox influence.

I am, &c.

Winslow, April 6, 1801. J. H. GROSE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Think it a duty at this period, to diffuse as widely as possible every circumstance which can tend in any degree to throw light on so important a subject as the Vaccine Inoculation, and thereby contribute either to remove the prejudices or confirm the opinions of those who oppose its introduction. I am induced by this consideration to send you the following account, and request that you will give it a place in your Journal.

On Monday, the 12th ult. I was sent for to the wife of Robert Baker, near Newcastle-under-Lyne, whom I found affected with the Small-pox, and in the seventh month of her pregnancy: The eruption, which was very copious and universal, first appeared upon the preceding Thursday, the day on which I saw her being therefore the fifth day of its appearance. As she had two children who had not had the Small-pox, I considered it as a fair opportunity of putting to the test the preventive power of the Cow-pock, and immediately inoculated them with Vaccine matter. As the Small-pox frequently proves fatal to pregnant females, it may not be amiss to observe, that in Mrs. Baker's case, (though she was very much loaded) there were no alarming symptoms, and that she is now completely recovered. The inflammation and suppuration went on in the inoculated parts with perfect regularity, attended with scarcely any perceptible indisposition, and one of the children complained of considerable tenderness in the axilla. They both lived in the same apartment with their mother during the whole progress of her illness, and on the 23d and 24th, (the 12th and 13th days after inoculation) I was somewhat alarmed for the credit of the Vaccine Inoculation, (on which I placed the fullest reliance) by the appearance of symptoms in both children, resembling those which take place at the approach of Small-pox, viz. sickness, thirst, head-ache, lassitude, &c. On the 25th these symptoms totally disappeared, but recurred upon the 28th, on which day and the following, about sixty eruptions appeared upon one child, and about twenty on the other, which eruptions exactly resembled those of Small-pox in every respect, excepting that they arrived at maturity on the 30th, being the third day of their appearance. From the time of their first appearance the children have been free from complaint.

From the above facts, it appears probable, that the Vaccine Inoculation had produced a change in the system, though not such as completely to prevent the influence of the variolous contagion,

contagion,* yet ſufficient to mitigate the violence of its effects, and indeed to occaſion the diſeaſe to deviate from its natural progreſs. I am, &c.

Stoke-upon-Trent, Feb. 11, 1801. E. BEVAN.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN May, 1800, J. Haythorne, Eſq. of Briſtol, conſulted me about his daughter, of whom he gave the following account.

She had been healthy from her birth till about the age of two years, when ſhe had a fever, and at the ſame time loſt the uſe of all her limbs by (as it was ſuppoſed) a paralytic ſtroke. From this ſhe recovered; but it was ſoon obſerved that the right foot was weaker than the other. As ſhe grew, this defect continued to increaſe; the foot became weaker, and deformed to ſuch a degree that at laſt ſhe had no power to uſe it; at leaſt, it had no capacity for voluntary motion: it became rigidly fixed in its deformed ſtate, with much tendency to increaſe in deformity, in conſequence of the very imperfect manner in which ſhe was able to walk about. The left leg and foot began to aſſume the ſame appearances, though in a leſs degree; electricity, the Bath waters, &c. and every means that could be deviſed to obviate or diminiſh this defect, had been tried without effect, for it increaſed ſo much that at laſt ſhe could not walk acroſs the room without being led by an aſſiſtant and ſupported by a ſtick; ſhe began to grow diſtorted from the pelvis upwards; and as every circumſtance of the diſeaſe was rapidly increaſing, without any well-founded expectation of reſtoring the form and powers of the parts, application was made to me, to contrive ſome means of preventing her from getting worſe, and, if poſſible, of enabling her to move about in the ſituation ſhe then was.

At this time the right foot was, (as ſuppoſed) in conſequence of permanent contraction of the tendo achillis, ſo drawn downwards that the ball of the great toe, the heel, and the calf of the leg were in a direct line with each other; the foot, by the apparent contraction of the plantar aponeuroſis, was much ſhortened, and rendered hollow on the bottom and the inſide; the great toe was drawn up and permanently ſhortened; the circular head of the aſtragalus was out of its natural ſituation, and

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* We think that this eruption was not variolous. ED.

and lay in a direct line with the front of the leg; the toes were turned inwards, so far, that when ſhe attempted to ſtand or walk, ſhe reſted upon the nails of the three middle toes, as the great toe did not touch the ground: In conſequence of this ſtate of the foot, every attempt ſhe made to walk or ſtand upon it tended to increaſe the deformity; the leg was flaccid, much wasted, and ſhe was not conſcious of any degree of ſenſibility either in that or the foot. At this time I had a caſt in plaſter of Paris made from the foot, in preſence of Mr. H. who obſerved, that the workman placed the foot as near the natural poſition as it was poſſible to be in when he made the mould; from this caſt I made four views, in different directions, which are in the annexed Plate 5, and will give a correct idea of the ſtate of the foot at the time.

The left foot had made ſo much progreſs towards the ſame ſtate, that, in any other patient, it would have excited conſiderable alarm; but in this was ſcarcely conſidered, or at moſt only as ſecondary in point of conſequence to the other. Both the knees bent inwards, and the diſtortion that was beginning to take place above the pelvis, had as yet produced no permanent deformity; and as it was merely the effect of peculiar poſitions occaſioned by the deranged action of the legs, it was at this time not an object of attention.

Mr. H. when he applied to me, had no expectations of obtaining more than palliative relief; but, in conſequence of my opinion, was induced to place her under my care, to ſee what could be effected towards obtaining a cure. Before the end of the firſt week that ſhe was under my care, ſhe felt a warm ſenſation pervade the whole of her right leg, which till then had not evinced the leaſt ſenſibility; and this ſenſation became ſo permanent, that much attention was requiſite, during the progreſs of the cure, to prevent it from becoming exceſſive; the form of the foot ſoon underwent a material change, and continued to do ſo progreſſively till laſt December, when ſhe was able to ſtand flat on the ſole of her foot; and while ſtanding upon it, there was little in its appearance to diſtinguiſh it from the foot of any other perſon.

At this time I had a ſecond caſt made from the foot, and from this caſt I have made the four views repreſented in the annexed Plate 6, viz. Fig. 1, a profile view of the inſide of the leg and foot; Fig. 2, a front view of the ſame; Fig. 3, a profile view of the outſide of the leg and foot; and Fig. 4, a back view of the ſame. In making the drawings repreſented in Plate 5, I placed the LEG in the ſame ſituations as the leg in Plate 6, conſequently, by comparing the feet in each plate with thoſe marked with correſponding numbers in the other, a correct opinion may be formed of the alteration produced in the form

form and appearance of the foot at the different periods when the casts were taken.

A circumstance at least as remarkable as the alteration in point of form, is the increase of size in the whole limb that has taken place during the time that has been employed in the cure; partly by the alteration in point of form, which is the consequence of reducing the foot to its natural state, but more by the absolute increase of size in the whole limb during the progress of the cure. To show what this has been, I subjoin an accurate measurement of the two casts, and have marked with a dotted line on Fig. 1, plate 6, the direction in which these measures were taken, viz.

	Diseased Foot.	*Restored Foot.*
Length of the foot,	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches,	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Breadth of the foot at the toes,	3 inches,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Circumference at the toes,	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches,	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Over the instep and round the heel,	9 inches,	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Smallest part of the leg,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches,	6 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches
Largest part of the leg,	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches,	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Extraordinary as these circumstances may seem, as the models were taken in the presence of Mr. H. and other persons equally respectable, and as they are still in my possession, it will always be easy to prove that these circumstances are incontrovertible facts. As the reduction of the foot to this state is the most striking part of this case, it was my intention to send the history of it at this period; but as other avocations have prevented me from doing so, I have an opportunity now to add, that though so much alteration in point of form cannot take place since the period when the last model was taken as did before that time, yet minuter alterations have taken place so fast, that I am now warranted in saying, this foot will be perfectly restored to its natural form, and that no one circumstance will remain to show that it has been distorted. I might perhaps be justified in saying as much of the restoration of its natural powers; but as I would avoid the imputation of rashly advancing too much, I shall content myself with stating the fact, that she has lately been able to walk three miles without inconvenience; and when it is remembered, that ten months ago she could not go so many yards without assistance, and as she is mending rapidly every day, I shall leave every one to form his own conclusions on the subject.

I have said nothing of the left foot; for, although, if it had been the only one diseased, it would have been an object of importance, it was but very little distorted in comparison with the other, and it is now sufficient to observe it is equally recovered; the tendency to a distorted spine too, in consequence of the alteration

alteration in the legs, has disappeared without requiring any assistance, though if the distortion of the legs and feet had continued, it is certain that very serious incurvation of the spine would have taken place.

As I wish to avoid every imputation of exaggerating any circumstance of this case, it is necessary to add, that I transmitted the above Narrative to Bristol, and have received the following letter from Mr. H. in reply.

"To Mr. SHELDRAKE, No. 50, Strand.

"Dear Sir,

"I have forwarded by the mail coach of this day, your Narrative of my daughter's case, which I have perused with the most affectionate interest, and confirm in its fullest extent, heartily wishing its publication may excite general attention to your important and invaluable discovery. I congratulate you and myself that this case, so happily treated hitherto, and promising complete success in the event, will establish your claim to the approbation and applause of all mankind. I am extremely concerned that this wonderful case cannot be farther confirmed by the testimony of that worthy gentleman* who was the cause of my placing the child under your care; his professional character, no doubt, would have had great weight; he had seen the first and second models, and, on that proof of advantage gained, encouraged me to hope the cure would be complete; had he lived to have seen the last, I am convinced he would have been happy to have had this opportunity of offering this public acknowledgment of your merit, in conjunction with, "Dear Sir,

"Your obedient friend and servant,

Bristol, 14 *April*, 1801. "JOHN HAYTHORNE.

"P. S. I beg you will refer any person desirous of seeing the models in this part of the kingdom to me; and, in case another is taken for yourself, that I may have one also."

If the above case was an anomalous one, in which the effect of some lucky experiment had proved beneficial to the patient, I might now take leave of it with those sensations that naturally will arise from the consciousness of having been serviceable to others; for as no situation can be more powerfully contracted than that of this patient, ten months ago, when she was almost helpless, and had no other prospect than that of increasing

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* The late Mr. Townsend, surgeon, of Bristol, who is recently deceased.

ing debility and its consequences, with that in which she is at present, almost restored to the full use of her powers, with life and all its prospects opening before her; so the reflection of having produced the alteration would be sufficiently gratifying: But as this is one very strong example of a very numerous class of diseases, few cases of which have been radically or even palliatively cured, and as the success in this case was the consequence of an accurate investigation of the alteration produced in the parts by whatever caused the disease, and a minute and laborious application of the means requisite to restore those parts to their natural state, and as the same principles, if skilfully adapted and sedulously applied to the many varieties of the same disease, will, in all probability, prove equally successful as it has done in this, I trust I shall be excused for adding a few observations on the subject.

We continually hear of what are called contractions of the limbs, arising, in all probability, from many different causes; connected, it is equally probable, with very different states of the parts: yet the opinions of professional men are not so far settled as to point out any general system upon which they may be treated with a probability of success; while the empiric, who perhaps has known some benefit produced by some remedy in one case, boldly applies the same remedy in all cases that he he is pleased to call by the same name, and thus goes on, promising much good, and doing no little mischief, till he is at last sunk in oblivion. It is in order to rescue the subject from this state of confusion that these observations are written; and I therefore hope, if they should not be successful, the attempt will be excused, and some more fortunate and more able hand be prompted to do justice to the subject.

What is a contracted limb? To some this question may seem unnecessary; but as I wish to define, accurately, the data upon which I mean to argue, I shall be excused for observing, that by the term contracted limb I understand *only* that which, by the spasmodic action of one or more muscles, or by the loss of substance or alteration in the natural texture of some muscles or tendons, is drawn into and firmly fixed in an unnatural position. Of this class of diseases, the cramp and its consequences may be mentioned as causes much in point.

When, in consequence of exercise unusually violent, and continued for an uncommon length of time, the legs become fatigued, and the patient lies down to rest without properly guarding himself from the effects of cold, the gastrocnemii muscles suddenly and violently contract themselves, and forcibly draw the feet into a peculiar position, in which they become fixed, and this is attended with excruciating pain to the sufferer, which is much increased by any forcible attempts to restore them

them to their natural position. It is easy to see, that if this effect was permitted to continue for a long time, the motion of the feet must cease; the pain in the contracted parts would diminish as they become accustomed to their situation, and, at last, would totally cease, except when any attempts were made to force them into action. It is likewise easy to see, that if this effect was continued for a longer time, such an alteration might take place in the organization of the contracted muscles or tendons, as would constitute an irremediable disease. The rational mode of curing this class of diseases in their early stages, and attempting to cure them in their more advanced ones, would be the use of the warm bath and such applications as can relax the parts, and mechanical applications or efforts to bring those parts into action in proportion as they become relaxed; but it is extremely probable, that if a positive alteration had taken place in the structure of the contracted parts, that this system of treatment would produce no benefit whatever; that if incautiously practised it would produce much pain; and if by misfounded fortitude in the patient, or imprudent perseverance in the operator, it was continued to excess, great inflammation in the parts might take place, and very serious consequences might ensue, without the possibility of obtaining any advantage to compensate the risk.

Of the success of this mode of treatment, when it is successful, it cannot be supposed that I should know much, for it is not connected with my practice, and patients who have been relieved by it, need to seek no farther assistance; of its failure in those cases in which I have said it is very unlikely, if not absolutely impossible, that such treatment should succeed, I have much information; and I must add to this, that I have no knowledge of any means by which such contractions as are occasioned by alteration in the structure of contracted parts can be cured. Of this class I shall briefly mention two cases out of the many that have fallen under my observation.

A gentleman in India went to sleep very imprudently in an exposed situation; he waked in excruciating pain from the cramp; the flexor muscles of the thigh and leg were so contracted, as to bend the leg into the position it usually is when we sit down, and in this position it was permanently fixed. All attempts to remove the contraction were ineffectual; he returned to England, and sought for assistance here without success, and at last applied to me. As every thing that could be done under the idea of relaxing, &c. had been tried, and as it appeared to me to be a case of permanent incurable contraction, I was not willing to make any attempt, but advised that he should try, by means of an assistant, whether the parts could be brought to act in any manner; these attempts, however, were attended

attended with ſuch excruciating pain, that they were ſoon diſcontinued, and the patient remains in the ſame ſtate as when I ſaw him firſt.

In the year 1795, I was called to the ſon of a gentleman in Ireland; there was a general tendency to contraction in all the flexor muſcles of the thighs, legs, and feet; when he lay down, his knees were drawn upwards, and his toes pointed ſtrait forwards; when he attempted to walk, it was only by holding a table or the chairs, and upon his toes, with his knees bent. The warm and vapour baths, electricity, fomentations, and relaxing applications had long been tried, it was ſaid, with good effect, and I was aſked to contrive ſuch inſtruments as would extend and keep the limbs extended in proportion as the applications that were uſed would enable the parts to bear extenſion. I did ſo, and the plan was followed with much perſeverance, and for a great length of time; but at laſt all the remedies were thrown aſide, as no benefit was derived from them; and if the patient be ſtill living, I conclude he is in the ſame condition as when I firſt ſaw him.

By theſe and many other caſes that have fallen under my obſervation, I am authoriſed to ſay, that although the uſe of relaxing applications may cure ſome caſes of contraction (adhering to the definition I have given of the term) yet, in general, they are ineffectual, and a ſucceſsful method of curing thoſe diſeaſes is ſtill a deſideratum in ſurgery.

To thoſe limbs which, like that of Miſs H. are fixed in one poſition, and which are not diſtorted by contraction, in the ſenſe I have uſed that word, I would apply the term rigid, as indicating their condition, without ſpecifying the cauſe of it; diſtorted limbs of this kind may be occaſioned by many different cauſes, among the moſt frequent of which are the following, viz. Luxation of joints, &c. which by weakening the connecting ligaments and particular muſcles, alter the poſition, and derange the natural action of the limb, and thus throw it into an improper ſituation, in which, at laſt, for want of proper action, it becomes permanently fixed. In conſequence of palſy, when, upon the removal of that diſeaſe, due care is not taken to place the limb in that ſituation which is moſt favourable to enable it to regain its natural powers; and many others, which as their effects are exactly the ſame, it is needleſs to particulariſe here.

The capacity for muſcular motion in any limb depends upon the exact proportion of the power of the flexor and extenſor muſcles to each other, by which means it is enabled to perform its functions with propriety; of courſe, by whatever means the powers of thoſe two ſets of muſcles are rendered unequal, derangement of its action, and deformity in its ſhape,

muſt

must be the consequence; that inequality, once established, will continue to increase till the action of one set is destroyed, and that of the other will cease of course; the limb will be motionless, lose its flexibility, and diminish in size, its sensibility will become latent, and, at length, the whole limb be reduced as near to a lifeless state as a part of the living animal can be. Such was the condition of Miss H's foot; such is the condition of many limbs called *contracted*, which are improperly treated, and finally abandoned in despair; when, by a different mode of treatment, they might be restored to their pristine vigour.

As this is a point of much importance, I shall perhaps be excused for proceeding a little farther upon it. If this disease is called contraction, and it is treated with what are called emollient or relaxing applications, what will be the consequence? The original cause of the disease is debility in particular muscles; and it certainly is not easy to conceive how the application of relaxing remedies to parts which have lost their power of acting from mere debility, can restore those parts to their natural state; it is easy to understand that the application of these remedies must be, at best, useless, when administered in every possible form, if they did not accelerate the progress of the disease; thus, by calling that disease contraction which in fact was debility, a method of treatment was adopted which was not adapted to the nature of the disease; and when it is considered how many similar cases there are which are treated upon the same principles, and with precisely the same result, this attempt to place the subject in its proper point of view may not be found unnecessary to future success.

The leading principle upon which I acted in this case, and which, I believe, will prove successful, if skilfully applied, in every other that is not in its nature incurable, was to restore the powers of those parts which had lost them as the distortion came on, from a persuasion that, if this could be done, the form and action of the whole limb would be restored of course. I am aware that this has been attempted by electricity and other means, though not with success, I therefore merely mention the circumstance, as it might seem invidious to enquire minutely into the causes of failure when those means have been employed.

I had learned, in the school of Mr. Hunter, that muscular motion, artificially excited, would in time produce or restore muscular power; to the discovery of the principle on which these diseases should be treated, then, I have no claim; but the merit I am entitled to, if it deserves the name, is that of having contrived the means of reducing this principle to practice, in

in the cure of a very numerous clafs of difeafes, and to any degree that may be required.

This cafe of Mifs H. has been called paralytic; if it was fo, then is this method to be called a cure for palfy; but there is abundant reafon to believe that if palfy was the primary caufe of this debility, and its confequent diftortion, *that* palfy had long been removed, and all the effects I faw were merely the effects of debility; it is not a little fingular that the fenfibility of which this leg had been fo long and fo compleatly deprived, as to give rife to a notion that it laboured under the influence of palfy, fhould be fo compleatly reftored in a few days, that much attention was requifite during the progrefs of the cure to prevent its becoming exceffive; the increafe of fize too, notwithftanding the conftant application of the bandages, &c. neceffary to effect the cure is fo very remarkable, that it requires every voucher of its authenticity to be carefully examined before implicit credit will be given to the account of it.

If any fhould object that I go too far in arguing, from the cure of this cafe, that every other cafe of the fame defcription may as certainly be cured, I fhall beg leave to obferve that the greateft certainly includes all the lefs, and many cafes of the fame kind, but lefs in degree, I have had under my care, fucceeding equally with them all; I believe too it is fair induction to fay, that if there are worfe cafes of the fame kind, it is very probable, nay almoft certain, that the fame means, if duly proportioned, and fedulouflly applied, will certainly cure every cafe, however bad it may be, till it arrives at that point which oppofes fome phyfical impoffibility to prevent our fuccefs.

At what period that impoffibility may take place it is not eafy to fay, though it certainly does not fo early as it has been fuppofed; and it is extremely probable it will be much later in life, and much lefs frequently, than many will imagine. As it is of confequence that this doctrine fhould be firmly eftablifhed, I. fhall perhaps be excufed for fupporting it by referring to a quarter from whence information on this fubject might not be expected.

A late author,* in defcribing the extraordinary mortification of a devotee, fays, "The compleat term of his firft penance being expired, the next he undertook was to hold his hands, locked. in each other, over his head, the fingers of one hand dividing thofe of the other, for the fame fpace of twelve years. —When I firft faw him at this place, in the year 1783, he rode on a piebald Tangun horfe from Bootan, and wore a fatin embroidered

* Turner's Embaffy to the court of the Tefhoo Lama.

embroidered dreſs given to him by Teſhoo Lama, of which he was not a little vain. He was robuſt and hale, and his complexion, contraſted with a long buſhy black beard, appeared really florid. I do not ſuppoſe that he was then forty years of age. Two Goſeins attended him, and aſſiſted him in mounting and alighting from his horſe; indeed, he was indebted to them for the aſſiſtance of their hands on every occaſion; his own being fixed and immovable, in the poſition in which he had fixed them, were of courſe perfectly uſeleſs.

" *The circulation of the blood ſeemed to have forſaken his arms, they were withered, void of ſenſation, and inflexible; yet he ſpoke to me with confidence of recovering the uſe of them, and mentioned his intention to take them down the following year, when the term of his penance would expire.*

" Other Goſeins aſſured me, *though I could not help doubting the fact*, that it is practicable to reſtore withered limbs, thus circumſtanced, to perfect uſe. This is effected, they ſay, though not without great labour and ſome pain, by means of long continued friction, before a large fire, with a certain ointment which they compound."

The authority of theſe Goſeins is not to be very highly eſtimated as to the ſurgical treatment of the diſeaſe, though they may ſafely be admitted as evidences to the fact mentioned by Capt. Turner. The appearance of the man ſo crippled is not mentioned as unique, it is ſtated, and indeed known, to be the regular practice of a certain deſcription of perſons who profeſs the ſame religion; and though it is a ſpecies of ſuperſtition, it is not of that gloomy kind which has led many to deſtruction, but, with the calmneſs of miſtaken philoſophy, that man willingly rendered his arms uſeleſs for twelve years, from a belief that the ſacrifice will be grateful to his Deity, and a conviction that at the expiration of the time mentioned in his vow, he *can take them down again, and recover the perfect uſe of them.* His countrymen likewiſe believe this, and ſtate the means by which it may be done, not as a matter of doubt, but as of the moſt abſolute certainty, and, undoubtedly, not without ſufficient reaſon.

There are no practices more antient than the ſuperſtitions of India; they have been invariably followed, without the leaſt deviation, for a ſeries of ages, of which perhaps we have no adequate idea; and it reſults from our knowledge of the facts mentioned by Capt. Turner, that perſons at the preſent time do what has been regularly done by their countrymen for time immemorial, render their arms uſeleſs for the term of twelve years, and at the end of that term reſtore them to their original perfect ſtate. Capt. T. doubted the fact, becauſe he had

no knowledge of any thing ſimilar, yet the terms in which he deſcribes the man's *arms*, if the word *leg* was ſubſtituted for it, would be very deſcriptive of Miſs H's leg; the cure of this is within our knowledge, and juſtifies us in believing what is related of this man by Capt. T. which again will juſtify us in concluding that many perſons with the ſame kind of defects, and much farther advanced than that of Miſs H. is, may be perfectly cured by the ſame means that were employed in curing her.

Mr. H. in his letter calls this a wonderful caſe; others, who are not equally affected by it, may call it an extraordinary one. As I do not wiſh for the reputation of working miracles, and am deſirous to ſubject what ſeems to be extraordinary to the judgement of thoſe who are competent to decide upon it, I ſhall ſtate what appears to me to be the progreſs of a limb in the condition this lady's was, from the healthy to the diſeaſed ſtate, and on its return to the healthy ſtate again.

In conſequence of weakneſs, from whatever cauſe, the extenſor muſcles of the foot were incapable of performing their functions properly; the contractile action of the flexors was of courſe increaſed, and the foot thus drawn into an unnatural poſition; this derangement, deformity, and rigidity increaſed till ſhe had no power to uſe the leg; in this ſtate it diminiſhed in ſize for want of action, and loſt its ſenſibility from the ſame cauſe. In this ſtate it was called a *contracted leg and foot*, and every application made to it, inſtead of curing, only increaſed its debility, and at length it became uſeleſs.

Having formed a different opinion of it, I avoided all the farrago of emollients, &c. as I would have done the ointment of the Goſeins, and confined my treatment to the application of bandages, conſiſting of ſprings ſo adapted as to imitate the action of every muſcle whoſe power was deficient, and by altering, adapting, and modifying theſe applications, ſo as to produce the action of every muſcle in its turn, I proceeded by degrees till the foot was reduced to its natural form, and ſo much of its natural powers reſtored, as leaves a well-founded hope that every the leaſt appearance of diſeaſe will be exterminated.

The phyſical alteration in the ſtate of the parts ſeems to have taken place in the following manner: By applying a ſpring to draw the foot towards the ſame poſition in which it would be placed by the action of any particular muſcle, that muſcle is brought to act though it had not before the power to do ſo; and, in conſequence of this action, the general circulation is increaſed through the whole limb; the conſequence of this increaſed circulation is enlargement of the veſſels through which

which the fluids circulate, and of courſe an increaſe of ſize and ſenſibility in the whole limb. The application to produce the action of every muſcle muſt be changed and varied according to the feelings of the patient; but, however it may be neceſſary to vary theſe applications, the general action of the limb is perpetually kept up, and if duly regulated, the reſtoration of feeling, ſize, ſhape, and, finally, the natural power of action is completely and permanently reſtored.

I am, &c.

Strand, April 20, 1801. T. SHELDRAKE.

On the Chemical Analysis of Vegetables. By Dr. HERMBSTAEDT, *of Berlin.*

[Continued from our laſt, p. 368.]

On the Separation of the Sulphat and Muriat of Kali or Potash.

THESE neutral ſalts, if contained in any plant as component parts, are beſt obtained by incinerating a certain quantity of it, and burning the aſhes in an iron pan till they become quite white, and afterwards mixing, and perfectly extracting them with water, and paſſing the fluid through a filtrum. The lye, which is in this way prepared, muſt be ſaturated with diſtilled vinegar, and entirely evaporated. The remaining dryneſs is to be digeſted with alkohol, which takes up all acetated kali, leaving the neutral ſalts that are formed with the mineral acids undiſſolved. By diſſolving the reſiduum in water, and chryſtallizing it, the ſalts ſeparate from each other; or in caſe there exiſted only one of them in the plant, the ſeparation of this will ſtill better ſucceed.

On the Analysis of the Vegetable Fibre, (Fibra Vegetabilis.)

After having extracted a plant by every poſſible diſſolvent, and by that means freed it from its component parts, the vegetable fibre remains behind, as a taſteleſs, ligneous ſubſtance, which ſeldom contains any ſaline particles, as theſe are generally extracted with the other parts by the different operations to which the plant has been expoſed. All that is to be attended to in the analyſis of the vegetable fibre, is to determine the earthy particles, and the carbon which are contained in it; and the analyſis is accordingly beſt performed in the following manner:

1. Put a certain quantity of the vegetable fibre that has been

perfectly dried, into a coated glass retort, to which is joined an adopter or receiver, from the extremity of which issues a pipe, into which a curved tube is received that is conducted into a bason with water, for intercepting any gasiform fluid that may be disengaged.

2. Place the retort into a reverberatory furnace, and apply heat at first gently, but augment it by degrees till the retort becomes red-hot, and no more vapour or gasiform fluid rises.

3. The quantity of gas that is obtained, may be determined according to cubical inches.* The glass in which the gas is received, is put with its opening into a vessel full of good lime water, in which it is suffered to stand till no more gas is perceived to rise.

4. By subtracting the quantity which the air in the glass has been diminished, from the whole former mass, it will be found what quantity of carbonic acid gas was mixed with it, which has been absorbed by the lime water.

5. The remaining gas is generally hydrogen, the quantity of which may be known by the previous diminution.

6. It is seldom the case that any fluid is found in the receiver, but when this happens, it is only a little empyreumatic oil, or empyreumatic acid. The residuum in the retort is the vegetable fibre changed into a black coal.

On the Quantity of Carbon contained in the Coal.

If the weight of the remaining coal be subtracted from the weight of the vegetable fibre that has been examined, it will be found how much of the heterogeneous particles has been lost. Put now the remaining coal, after having accurately weighed it, into an iron pan, and let it burn with the access of air till all black colour disappears. By weighing the remaining white ashes, it will appear what quantity of carbon there was, which after having combined with the oxygen of the atmospherical air, went off as carbonic acid gas.

On the Analysis of the remaining Earth.

The remaining earth is accurately weighed, and infused with six

* For ascertaining the quantity of any gas according to cubical inches, it requires only to be noticed on the glass, how far it is filled with gas, after which the glass is filled with an equal quantity of distilled water, the weight of which is accurately marked. As the Rhenish duodecimal cubic inch of distilled water amounts, according to accurate observation, to about 290 grains of medicinal weight, at a temperature of 12° Reaumur, the quantity of water is only to be divided with 290, and the quotient will show the quantity of the contained gas, according to Rhenish cubical inches.

fix times its weight of diftilled water, and digefted in a glafs veffel, after which the fluid is to be examined by reagency, whether it contains free. kali, or any other neutral falt. If this be the cafe, the earth fhould be repeatedly edulcorated, till all faline admixture is removed. The remaining earth muft undergo the following examination:

1. Infufe it with diftilled vinegar, this predominates, and all foluble parts are thereby diffolved. What remains undiffolved is filiceous earth, or filiceous and aluminous earth mixed with each other.

2. Infufe therefore this remaining earth with pure diluted fulphuric acid, and fuffer it to digeft. What remains hereby undiffolved is pure filiceous earth, which muft be wafhed out, dried, and weighed.

3. The folution with fulphuric acid is faturated with mild ammonia. If no turbidnefs be occafioned, no aluminous earth has been prefent; but if it exifted it will fall to the bottom, and ought then to be edulcorated, dried, and weighed.

4. The folution obtained by the acetous acid muft now be examined with reagency, in order to know what earths are contained in it; a few drops of a folution of Glauber's falt will, by the enfuing turbidnefs, foon difcover whether any barytes exifted in it.

5. If barytes was manifefted in it by this manner, drop fulphuric acid to the folution as long as any precipitation enfues. The precipitate muft then be wafhed out and dried, and confifts of a mixture of fulphate of barytes (heavy fpar,) and fulphat of lime, (felenite, gypfum.)

6. Should the earth alfo contain magnefia, this will be found mixed with the gypfum in form of magnefian vitriol, in the water that has been ufed at (5.) This muft be gently evaporated as long as any felenite particles feparate from it, which are put to the former (5), and the remaining fluid is precipitated with cauftic natrum (mineral alkali), and the precipitate edulcorated and dried, which exhibits the pure magnefia.

7. For feparating the heavy fpar and gypfum obtained at (5), it is neceffary, after having it dried and accurately weighed, to digeft it well with 600 parts of diftilled water, by which means the gypfum is diffolved, whereas the heavy fpar remains untouched, the weight of which, fubtracted from the weight of the whole mafs, will determine the weight of the gypfum; and from the known quantitive proportion of the component parts of the heavy fpar and gypfum, the quantity of barytes and calcareous earth that was contained in the fame plant, may be determined.

CONCLUSION.

CONCLUSION. When we intend to examine and analyse any vegetable body here described, it is always necessary, that the results may prove accurate, to employ a new portion of the plant for the examination of each single component part, and to cast up the sum of every single matter that has been found and separated; and in this way it will be only possible to obtain an accurate knowledge of the true elementary mixture of such a plant. The operator should at the same time observe the utmost accuracy in his experiments, persevere in pursuing them, be indefatigable in repeating several times the same experiment, and attend to the utmost cleanliness of the vessels and the reagency, as, otherwise, accurate and certain results cannot be expected.

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*On the Medical Use of Alkalis in several Diseases.**
By DR. STUTZ.

[Extracted from Hufeland's Journal, Vol. X. No. 4.]

AMONGST the multitude of remedies which are exposed to the vicissitude of custom and fashion, none seem to have been so little regarded as the alkaline salts or alkalis. It is indeed surprising how much the use of alkalis, and particularly of the fixed one, has been hitherto confined by medical men. Salia media, acids, were frequently employed in different diseases from the earliest times of Medicine, whereas the alkalis were almost utterly neglected. Although the volatile alkali has been sometimes given in different disorders with much avail, yet the pure fixed alkali, mineral and vegetable, was but rarely or not at all used. Thus it has been only empirically recommended in the acor primarum viarum, in the rickets, where ABILDGAARD thinks it of avail in combination with bark and Rubia tinctorum; in dysenteries, in dropsy, by STORK, ABERTAUFFER, and THEDEN, the last of whom gave it with wine; in all which diseases however it was only employed by a few physicians, and at the same time mostly in combination with different other remedies, that it is impossible to say which of them proved efficacious.

It was reserved to our enlightened age, to point out the medical excellency of alkalis, and to draw the attention of medical

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* We have already mentioned in our Journal, Vol. iii. p. 572, Dr. Stutz's Method of curing the Tetanus by means of Alkalis, &c.

medical men to a remedy, whoſe efficacy in the moſt dangerous affections appears to be inconteſtible. The excitant powers of the fixed alkali were not at all, or very little known, till the ingenious naturaliſt Mr. HUMBOLDT firſt hinted how efficacious a remedy it might prove; and till it was really employed in convulſions with great ſucceſs by Dr. MICHAELIS and WIEDEMAN, but afterwards it ſeemed again to be laid aſide. In October 1799, reading the experiments of Mr. HUMBOLDT on the influence which chemical ſubſtances have on excitability, and being led by farther reflexion and compariſon, I firſt conceived the idea of employing the fixed alkali in one of the moſt terrible diſeaſes, the Tetanus, which I had a frequent opportunity of obſerving in the Imperial Chief Hoſpital. The great ſucceſs with which this new method of cure was crowned, prevailed on the Council of War at Vienna, that copies of my caſes, and the method of cure which I have deſcribed, ſhould be diſtributed amongſt the phyſicians of the field hoſpitals of the Imperial army, in order to put that method to a fair trial. As the alkalis, in combination with opium, proved ſo highly ſerviceable in one of the moſt dangerous and mortal diſeaſes, I concluded farther, that their uſe might extend to other diſeaſes which originate in the ſame proximate cauſe. On this ſubject my ideas are the following. — *Alkalis, mild as well as caustic, are useful in all asthenic and spasmodic diseases of the nervous and muscular fibre of whatever species and form.* All ſpaſmodic diſeaſes differ only with reſpect to the individuals they attack, but agree in their internal character, which is common to all of them, that is to ſay, *in the character of the debilitated organic fibre.* That theſe diſeaſes originate in a debility of the organic fibre, ſeems to be a matter of no doubt; for, elſe, how could a fibre, endowed with proper force and elaſticity, be reduced by internal cauſes to ſuch irregular motions as in convulſions, or to ſuch inactive contractions as in the tonic ſpaſms; it is certain that the debilitated organic fibre can only be affected in ſuch a way. Excitant and corroborant remedies are therefore particularly indicated here, to remove that debility of the nervous and muſcular fibre; for which purpoſe, I recommend the fixed vegetable alkali and opium, alternately given, and the cauſtic alkali at the ſame time externally applied. The excitant and corroborant properties of alkalis, though in ſome meaſure acknowledged in the volatile and cauſtic alkali, was firſt diſcovered by the experiments of Mr. HUMBOLDT, on which my method of cure in Tetanus was built, and the ſucceſs of which has proved the juſtneſs of aſſerting that the alkalis belong to the excitant claſs of remedies.

The

The particular diſeaſes, however, in which alkalis may be uſed with hopes of the greateſt ſucceſs, are,

1. *The Tetanus and Triſmus Traumaticus*, which I ſucceeded in curing, in a ſhort time, by externally applying the cauſtic alkali in a hot bath, and by giving the mild one internally, particularly by alternately adminiſtering opium at the ſame time; upon which method of cure I ſhall treat more fully in a peculiar eſſay.

2. Another diſeaſe, in which the alternate application of alkalis and opium has been of the greateſt avail, are *the convulſions of pregnant women*, a diſeaſe equally dangerous. Although convulſions in children have been ſucceſsfully removed by vegetable alkalis, according to the obſervations of Doctors MICHAELIS and WIEDEMANN, yet there was no certain method eſtabliſhed, and the alternate uſe of alkalis with opium, and their application in baths and fomentations was ſtill unknown. Inſtead of reaſoning about this matter, I beg leave to relate the hiſtory of a caſe communicated to me by the ingenious ſurgeon Profeſſor BRUNINGHAUSEN, at Wurzburg.

"A healthy young lady, aged about twenty years, of a very mild temper but of an irritable conſtitution, being pregnant for the firſt time, complained after the ſeventh month of her pregnancy, (till which period ſhe had always been very well) of a violent griping in the belly, without any evident cauſe. A few hours after ſhe felt a ſpaſmodic contraction of the left leg, which attempting to ſtretch out, ſhe was ſeized by the moſt violent convulſions of the whole body, that laſted about ten minutes, and returned half an hour after. The phyſician who attended her, ordered her to be bled immediately, as the young woman was of a plethoric habit, her face extremely red and ſwollen, and the pulſe ſtrong and full; after which, clyſters with laudanum and aſafœtida, fomentations of emollient herbs on the belly, and frictions on the joints with volatile liniment and laudanum were applied, and internally valerian with opium preſcribed; which remedy, however, ſhe was not able to ſwallow, on account of the locked ſtate of the jaws, the ſenſeleſsneſs, and the utmoſt difficulty of ſwallowing. The intervals of the return of the convulſions increaſed by degrees, but the fits became more violent. On the 18th of June I was called, partly in order to bring on her labour, if I thought proper; partly to make the Cæſarean operation, in caſe the patient ſhould periſh in a fit of theſe convulſions, for the purpoſe of ſaving at leaſt the life of the child. Before my arrival the patient had already ſuffered twenty-three of the moſt violent fits, each of which threatened to kill her. The face became always red and ſwollen ſhortly before a fit came on, which, therefore, was

was foreseen by these symptoms; the eyes were, at the same time, staring, and the pupils immoveable; and at a deeper inspiration, a murmuring noise was heard, and a bloody foam appeared at the mouth. All the muscles of the extremities were in a continual vicissitude of rapid contraction and extension, and the face of the lady became horridly distorted and blue. Each paroxysm always terminated in about eight or ten minutes with the most violent contractions of the extensors, while the snoring, senseless, and comatose state continued. The pulse was frequent and hard. On touching the belly for a considerable time, I remarked no motion of the child; and examining the os uteri, I found it still so high that I could hardly reach it; it was soft, but shut in such a manner that the point of my forefinger could not enter. Whilst I was thus examining, the patient relapsed again into a vehement convulsive paroxysm; nevertheless, I continued the examination for some moments, purposely to discover whether the convulsions had any influence upon the orifice, which, however, was not the case, as it remained relaxed and immoveable; but the uterus was most violently contracted, of which I convinced myself by touching the belly during the paroxysm; it then became soft, and no symptom of a labour appeared. Under such embarrassing circumstances, there was not any indication for an artificial delivery; on the contrary, there was reason to fear that on attempting to deliver her, the convulsions might be so much increased, as to destroy the patient immediately. When we met again in the afternoon, the state of the patient was rather worse; the convulsions had become more violent, and the paroxysms brought on after rubbing in oil with opium. The state which she was in being so very desperate, her relations desired me to desist from any further attempt to relieve her, as they thought she must certainly die; and I sincerely confess we were of the same opinion. In this alarming situation, I was put in mind of the method of cure which Dr. Stutz had so successfully employed in three cases of Tetanus; and thinking, that however different the external appearance of those diseases might be, yet they agree in their nature and proximate cause, I proposed the matter to my colleague, the attending physician, who readily adopted my idea. As there was no time to be lost, we instantly prescribed, ℞. Sal. tart. alc. dr. j. solv. in aq. distillat. unc. iv. two table spoons full to be taken every two hours, and in the intervals ten drops of laudanum. Doubting, however, of the patient being able to swallow the medicine, we endeavoured to apply it as near to the uterus and lumbar nerves as we possibly could. Half an ounce of Sal. tart. alcal. was accordingly prescribed, of which two scruples with a decoction

coction of camomile flowers were ordered to be applied in a clyster. We had wished to put the patient into a hot bath; but she being so far reduced, we were apprehensive of her dying in it; I therefore recommended an application of the caustic alkali on the belly in fomentations, and one ounce of lapis caustic chirurgorum was accordingly dissolved in one pint and a half of water, into which a cloth was dipped, and after it had been wrung out, put on the belly. I never saw a more striking effect of any medicine than in this case. Two table spoons full of the medicine were given to her, which she kept for a while in the mouth, but swallowed it at last. After the first clyster and fomentation had been applied, a very extraordinary change was remarked. The eyes, which were before staring, moved continually; the whole body, which lay before in an apoplectic state, became restless; she began to lift the arms, that had been quite lame, and to scratch the belly with her hand, because an itching was probably occasioned by the fomentations, as we imagined from a slight redness that was perceived on the belly. The paroxysms, which before came on every quarter of an hour, remitted now for two hours; and after the repeated application of those remedies, entirely ceased; the patient became quiet, recovered her senses, and answered to several questions. At last she began to complain of pains in the belly, which became afterwards true pains of labour, and were not at all interrupted by convulsions. About six o'clock in the evening she was delivered of a child, which, though very weak and apparently dead, was with much trouble, restored to life within an hour. The placenta came out without difficulty; a sound sleep ensued; and we congratulated ourselves upon this unexpected happy success; when she was, an hour after the delivery, suddenly attacked by a new paroxysm, more violent than any she had before experienced; and after the short interval of six minutes, another, equally violent, succeeded. All seemed now to be lost; we had, however, recourse to the same remedies, and fortunately they did not forsake us. After a clyster with one drachm of Sal. alcal. vegetab. had been applied, the fomentations renewed, and some table spoons full of the above solution administered, which remedies were some hours continued alternately with opium, she fell asleep again, and a copious perspiration came on, after which the convulsive fits completely ceased. The lady was very weak, but recovered her strength in a short time. I abstain from every remark upon this case, by which the great use of the above treatment seems to be evidently proved, and only add, that it ought to be remembered that, according to experience, convulsions in the last

months

months of pregnancy are moſt dangerous affections, and almoſt always prove fatal."

3. *In convulsions of every kind of adults as well as of children*, the alkalis are, according to my own experience and the obſervations of MICHAELIS, WIEDEMANN, &c. of very great ſervice, particularly when alternately adminiſtered with opium. In ſlight caſes of convulſions of children, a diſeaſe to which ſo many fall a ſacrifice, the Sal. tartari, or the Oleum tartari per deliquium, is very ſerviceable; but in a higher degree of organic debility, I employed volatile alkali, viz. the ſprit. c. c. ſuccinat. in a few drops in a proper vehicle, generally in Syrup. de cichor. cum Rheo. In clyſters, the ſpirit of hartſhorn is likewiſe of avail in theſe caſes, in a greater or leſs doſe, according to circumſtances. I have alſo had frequent opportunity of obſerving the good effects of the ſpirit of hartſhorn in the hooping cough, a diſeaſe that is certainly of a ſpaſmodic nature, upon which, however, I ſhall treat more fully at another time, and only relate a caſe, by which the uncommon efficacy of alkalis with opium, in convulſions of adults, is moſt evidently ſhown.

[To be continued.]

CRITICAL RETROSPECT

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Anleitung zur Kentniss und Wahl des Arztes; i. e. Instruction for the Knowledge and Choice of a Phyſician. By JOSEPH FRANK, Phyſician to the General Hoſpital at Vienna. 123 pp. 8vo. 1800. Vienna, Schaumburg.

THIS publication is intended to inform the public of the qualities of a good phyſician, in order to enable it to judge properly, whether the phyſician, to whom health and life are to be entruſted, really poſſeſſes all the knowledge and abilities which are neceſſary for the preſervation of health and the cure of diſeaſes. It is very obvious from daily experience, that with reſpect to the choice of a phyſician, the public is frequently miſled by faſhion, deceived by an ambiguous celebrity, by recommendations, and by protections; and we are afraid that this will by no means be remedied by the preſent publication. For though we do not deny to it the me-

rit of acquainting the public with the true qualities of a phyſician, by which it may be enabled to judge in ſome ſingle inſtances, yet on the whole, it would require a greater knowledge of the medical ſcience than can be expected, but without which, however, it will be impoſſible to diſcover any miſtakes or errors that a phyſician may commit in the treatment of a diſeaſe. After having premiſed ſome juſt remarks on the too great number of thoſe who devote themſelves to medicine, and on the different means and expedients by which young doctors attempt to introduce themſelves into practice, the author treats, in the *firſt ſection*, of the perſon of a phyſician. *Ch.* 1. Of the exterieur of the phyſician, to which he refers his phyſiognomy, dreſs, and manners. *Ch.* 2. Of the phyſical qualities of a phyſician. Medical art being founded upon experience, and accurate obſervation of things that are obvious to our ſenſes, a phyſician ought to poſſeſs them in a moſt perfect ſtate; this the author ſhows of every ſenſe in particular. *Ch.* 3. Of the moral qualities, judgment, &c. of a phyſician. Humanity, patience, modeſty, ſecrecy, and moderation, are the principal virtues at which a phyſician ſhould particularly aim; beſides a comprehenſive genius, he ought to have a good memory, and a knowledge of the dead and living languages. The *ſecond ſection* treats in *three chapters*, of the conduct of the phyſician towards his colleagues, towards ſurgeons and apothecaries, and towards the patient; upon the laſt of which he particularly dwells; and we meet every where with remarks that are confirmed by experience. At the end of the preface the author promiſes to preſent to his readers a ſketch of the Brunonian ſyſtem, a circumſtance which ſhould not ſurpriſe us, as the author is known to be one of the principal partizans of the Brunonian theory, and conſequently intereſted in its acquiring the moſt extenſive popularity.

Recherches Phyſiologiques ſur la Vie et la Mort; i. e. Phyſiological Reſearches on Life and Death; by XAV. BICHAT, Profeſſor of Anatomy and Phyſiology. Paris, Year VIII. in two vol. 8vo. price 5 francs, or about 5s.

WE here announce a new work on two intereſting ſubjects of the organic doctrine, *life* and *death*, which, on account of its general excellency, deſerves a more copious notice. The author attempts to enquire into the Zoonomick laws by analyſis and ſtrict induction, and has, indeed, given light on ſeveral obſcure doctrines of phyſiology, by his viviſections, and other ingenious experiments; though, on the other ſide, he has frequently ſuffered himſelf to be deluded by a luxuriant imagination, and to be miſled by an acuteneſs more ſubtle than true, with which he endeavours to force Nature into ſyſtematical bonds, which are frequently diſregarded in a ſubject that will never allow itſelf to be conſtrained by ſyſtems.

The work is divided into two parts, the firſt of which treats of Life, and the ſecond of Death. The firſt part comprehends ten articles,

articles, viz. Art. 1. *General division of life.* The author calls life the whole (l'ensemble) of the functions that resist death. The principle of life, which we only know from its phenomena, opposes itself to the destructive action of external influences; and there exists, consequently, a continual vicissitude of action and reaction in the living body. *Life* shows two principal modifications, an *organic* or *internal* life, and an *animal* or *external* one, (*vie animale, ou de relation*) the first of which is common both to animals and vegetables, comprehending their existence, nutrition, growth, assimilation, digestion, secretions, and excretions; the second belongs to men and animals, by which they are enabled to perceive, to move voluntarily, and to express their desires and passions; in one word, to connect their existence with other beings. Each of these two kinds of life has again two orders of functions. The first order of the animal life proceeds from without, towards the brain; the second, from the brain towards the organs of locomotion and of voice. By the first order of functions in the organic life, the nutritive substances are assimilated, to which belong digestion, circulation, respiration, and nutrition: By the functions of the second order, the particles that have become heterogeneous to organization are removed; absorption, circulation, perspiration, and secretion. The system of circulation, as the centre of the organic life, belongs to both orders.

Art. 2. *Chief differences of the two lives, with regard to the forms of their respective organs.* The greatest symmetry prevails in the organs of animal life; whereas those of the organic life are extremely irregular. By a line drawn along the middle of the human body, the organs of the first life, brain and nerves, will be separated in two equal parts, which are not strictly dependent on each other, as we see, for instance, in hemiplegia; but in the organic life, every part is combined and subservient to each other; their form and situation are, at the same time, more frequently changed than in the other. The idea of this law, the author first displayed, with a great deal of acuteness and ingenuity, in the Memoirs of the Medical Society at Paris; however, it is liable to many objections that may be justly raised against it.

Art. 3. *Chief difference of the two lives, with regard to the mode of action of their respective organs.* The actions of the organs of animal life proceed with the greatest proportion and harmony, which seems in a great measure to be owing to their symmetrical situation and form. The author, in strictly examining this law, meets with several exceptions, which, however, he endeavours to explain with much acuteness. The apparent inequality between the actions of the muscular system of the right side, which is thought to enjoy more strength than that of the left, is not founded in nature, but merely produced by the customs of society. In the mode of actions of the organic life, however, the greatest difference prevails, as one organ is frequently larger than another, and performs its functions better than another; one kidney is often larger than the other, and secretes more urine, &c.

Art.

Art. 4. *Chief difference of the two lives, with regard to the duration of their actions.* The functions of the organic life proceed in a continual progreſſion, whereas in the animal life, an intermiſſion takes place: The author attempts to elude ſeveral objections that may be propoſed againſt this law, which does not at all appear to be founded upon obſervation. It cannot be well aſſerted, that all influence of the nerves, upon voluntary muſcles, ceaſes when they are in a quiet ſtate, or on the organs of ſenſes during ſleep.

Art. 5. *Chief difference of both lives, with regard to cuſtom and habit.* Cuſtom diminiſhes the perception and ſenſe of pain and pleaſure, but it brings the judgment to a greater perfection: The power of habit does not extend to the organic life, and the circulation, reſpiration, and perſpiration, are not influenced by it. The author, however, does not omit to remember the great power of habit in eating and drinking, return of appetite, excretio alvi et urinae, on which account he refers them to the phenomena that keep the medium in both lives.

Art. 6. *Chief difference of both lives, with regard to moral properties.* All operations of the underſtanding are ſituated within the compaſs of animal life, but the paſſions are ruled by the organic life, whoſe ſound and morbid ſtate, different degree of ſtrength, and the predominant functions of any organ, have a remarkable influence on paſſions and temper. The influence of violent paſſions on the muſcular ſyſtem, ought to be explained, according to our author, from the more or leſs vehement influx of blood into the brain, and the locomotive organs, &c. But as the debilitating and depreſſing affections of the mind do always leave viſible impreſſions in the voluntary muſcles, particularly of the face, and as, beſides, leſions of the inner organs produce convulſions and palſies of the extremities, the author is obliged to adopt a ſympathetic connexion between the organs of the internal life and the brain, in order to explain thoſe phenomena. He denies that the paſſions ariſe from the *centrum epigaſtricum* of nerves, an opinion which ſome modern phyſiologiſts have adopted: He adds, however, ſome very ingenious remarks on the great ſympathetic nerve, in which he diſplays at the ſame time a profound knowledge of of the finer anatomy.

Art. 7. *Chief difference of the two lives, with regard to the vital powers.* The vital powers are not ſubject to phyſical laws; extenſibility, a property of the tela celluloſa, which even remains after death, differs greatly from ſenſibility and contractility. The firſt, however, is of a different character in the two lives, becauſe in the organic life it conſiſts in the faculty of receiving impreſſions, but in the animal life of conducting them to a common central point; and though this animal and organic ſenſibility agree in their chief character, yet they ſeem to be diſtinguiſhed by the degree and proportion with which they act. Contractility may be ſeparated into animal and organic; the firſt of which is influenced by the will, and begins in the ſenſorium commune; the ſecond exiſts in the different organs, and admits two modifications, the perceptible and imperceptible contractility.

Art.

Art. 8. *Origin and progress of the animal life.* The activity of the organic life begins in the first moment of existence, but in the embryo animal life cannot be traced. The actions of the animal organs come to perfection by degrees, whereas the organic ones perform their functions from the first moment to the end with equal perfection and accuracy. The new-born animal staggers in walking and standing, while its stomach digests well, and the glandular system acts in just proportion.

Art. 9. *Origin and progress of the organic life.* The functions for assimilation are very simple in the fetus, and proceed very quickly, as the nutritive particles enter into the fetus after being prepared in the mother. The secretions and excretions are slow and inconsiderable; but as the inner organs receive immediately the just degree of action, none of them should properly excel the other, or become stronger or weaker. This, however, is not found to be so; the liver, for instance, frequently rules other organs, whence the varieties in the temper.

Art. 10. *Natural death of both lives.* The same difference which they show in their beginning and progress, are also remarked in their ending. Animal life ceases in natural death a long time before the organic. The taste remains the longest. Mankind approaches, in the bosom of the mother, and at the verge of life, to a plant. Natural death has two periods, in the first of which respiration and circulation cease together with the animal life; in the second, the rest of the organic functions, but by degrees and slowly. The digestive power of the stomach and absorption continue for some time; the hair and nails grow, &c. The death of old age proceeds in a different manner; one function is extinguished after another; circulation is stopped first in the smaller, then in the larger vessels; in short, the death of old people proceeds from the periphery towards the centre, and the heart is the *ultimum moriens.*

[To be continued.]

Observations on Mr. Home's Treatment of Strictures in the Urethra; with an improved Method of treating certain Cases of those Diseases, by THOMAS WHATELY, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Illustrated by an Engraving, 8vo. pp. 112, price 2s. 6d. London, 1801, Johnson, &c.

WE are much pleased to find that the hope we expressed in our account of Mr. W's correct and elaborate work on Gonorrhœa Virulenta, (vol. v. p. 383) has been already so far gratified. An improper treatment of gonorrhœa is, doubtless, the most frequent cause of strictures, and therefore we may consider the treatment of strictures in the urethra as forming also an important part of the cure of the venereal disease, or its consequences. The male urethra has, with sufficient reason, been called Pandora's box; and of all the evils it has produced, strictures, either immediately or in their consequences, may be considered as the most formidable and distressing. However "invidious," therefore, "it may appear to others,

others, or however painful to ourselves," the author observes, "it may be, to attack the opinions of a respectable character; yet to be more influenced by a reluctance to condemn the practice of an individual than by a desire to relieve the thousands of wretched beings around us, would be a reprehensible delicacy." Our narrow limits do seldom permit us to do justice to practical works of this kind; and indeed our readers must long have observed, that our object is merely to point out and distinguish such new works as merit the attention of certain practitioners, or the public in general. Now it is our opinion, that no surgeon who wishes to do his duty to his patients in the best manner in his power, will neglect to read Mr. W's pamphlets on Gonorrhœa and Strictures. That our readers, however, may have an opportunity of judging for themselves, rather than relying on our authority only, we shall, according to our custom, present them with a few extracts. After making some remarks on the predisposing cause of strictures in the urethra, Mr. W. proceeds "to inquire into the present method of treating certain cases of them by the caustic. My observations on this head are meant, says he, to excite the attention of the reader to an improved method of treating the complaint in question. Fearing, however, lest so many publications on the cure of strictures of the urethra by the caustic should mislead the young practitioner, and cause him to overlook what has been done, and what still may be done by a judicious management of the common bougie, I have judged it right, before I enter on the subject of caustic applications, to make a few extracts respecting the use of this simple instrument, from those excellent surgeons, Mr. S. Sharpe and Mr. Hunter.

"Strictures in the urethra appear not to have been treated judiciously, previous to the time of Monsieur Daran. Although the bougie had been used long before his time, it is to him we are indebted for a more extensive and methodical application of it. Mr. Samuel Sharpe, and Mr. Hunter, have since extended and brought to great perfection the use of this instrument, by which a very distressing complaint has been, in many instances, perfectly cured; and in the greater number of other cases, it has been so much alleviated by its occasional use, as to enable the patient to pass through life without suffering any serious inconveniences from his infirmity. Both Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Hunter (particularly the latter) have given very excellent directions how to use this remedy, and have informed us upon what principle it acts."

Mr. W. concludes his quotations from these authors, with the following from Mr. Hunter:

"And in the following section he remarks, that "When a bougie can readily pass, there is no necessity for using any other method to remove the stricture." He then proceeds with great judgment to the treatment by caustic of such strictures, "as are either so tight as not to allow the smallest bougie to pass;" or of such, "as have not the orifice in the stricture in a line with the urethra, which will make it uncertain, if not impossible, to pass a bougie." He likewise recommends the caustic in those

cases

cafes, in which " there may be no paffage at all, it having been " obliterated by difeafe, and the urine paffed by fiftulæ in perinæo."

" Mr. Hunter applied the cauftic in cafes of this defcription at firft by means of a filver canula; but, on account of many difadvantages attending this mode of ufing it, we are told by Mr. Home, that, for fome years before Mr. Hunter's death, he ufed it upon an improved plan, viz. by inferting a fmall piece of lunar cauftic into the end of a bougie, in fuch a manner, that the cauftic was furrounded every where laterally by the fubftance of the bougie; fo that in its paffage to the ftricture, the cauftic was fcarcely allowed to come into contact with any part of the membrane of the urethra; the point of the bougie always moving in the middle line of the canal.

" Mr. Home informs us, that, ever fince Mr. Hunter's death, he has continued to make ufe of the fame method of applying the cauftic; but it is evident from many parts of his work, that he employs commonly, for this purpofe, bougies of a much larger fize than thofe which were ufed by Mr. Hunter; and he feems to be defirous, in every cafe in which he adopts this method of treatment, to pafs through the ftricture a bougie, thus armed with cauftic, as large as the natural fize of the canal of the urethra.

" Mr. Home has not only employed the cauftic in thofe cafes, in which it had been recommended by Mr. Hunter, but he has likewife ufed it in old ftrictures, and fuch as could not be dilated to more than half the fize of the reft of the canal by the common bougie, and which, when dilated, were apt to contract, and require a frefh application of the bougie within two months after it had been left off. Mr. Home therefore informs us, that his obfervations " will be confined entirely to the treatment of thofe ftric- " tures which admit a fmall bougie to pafs into the bladder; and " that they are publifhed with a view to extend the ufe of the " cauftic to a greater variety of cafes, and in fome meafure upon " a different principle from that on which it was applied to imper- " vious ftrictures by the late Mr. Hunter."

" The fubject is of great importance to thoufands afflicted with this malady. And as the propofed alteration in the plan of cure is by a remedy of a very violent nature, capable, if not ufed with great judgment, of producing confequences worfe than even the difeafe for which it is applied, it demands the moft ferious inveftigation. This I fhall now enter upon, by firft making a few obfervations, concerning the manner in which ftrictures ufually affect the urethra, the number they commonly confift of in the fame perfon, and the part of the canal in which they are ufually fituate."

Our Author has not contented himfelf with common experience or obfervation, but has made a number of experiments with cauftic on vifible parts of the body, fuch as the infide of the cheek, which refemble the urethra in ftructure. He then fays,

" Having endeavoured to fhew what are the probable effects of lunar cauftic, when applied to the inner membrane of the urethra in cafes of ftricture, by comparing its known effects when applied to

to parts that are open to obfervation, I fhall proceed to point out the defects which appear in Mr. Home's method of ufing it, and the confequences which fometimes refult from its being thus applied. After this I fhall, with all deference, propofe another mode of applying the cauftic, which will, I apprehend, preclude every difagreeable effect that has hitherto attended the ufe of this powerful remedy.

"I begin with obferving, that the orifice of the urethra is fo fmall in fome cafes of ftricture, as not to admit the fmalleft bougie I have ever feen armed with cauftic. Of courfe, the cauftic cannot be applied to the ftricture, while it is in this ftate. This contraction may arife, either from a natural conformation of the part, or from its having been the feat of chancres; or it may have come on gradually, from the long continuance of a ftricture in any part of the urethra. If the contraction arife from the firft caufe, it may often be remedied by dividing the web at the orifice of the urethra; but this muft render the part for fome time very tender, and in an unfit ftate to be ftretched by a large bougie. A contraction from the fecond caufe may frequently be dilated; though it muft be confeffed, that, in fome of thefe cafes, it is impoffible to dilate it, fo far as to admit even the fmalleft fized armed bougie for the purpofe of applying the cauftic. Of this I have lately had an inftance. In the third cafe, dilatation is generally practicable, and it will remove the difficulty."

The objections to Mr. Home's manner of applying the cauftic, turn on fome of the following circumftances, viz.

The mucus of the urethra renders its action uncertain.

The bougies are too large, and therefore only reach the anterior part of the ftricture, or do injury if forced through it.

The cauftic is applied too often, and to too many ftrictures at a time.

The confequences have often been ferious and alarming.

Mr. W. next proceeds to deliver his own *Method of treating Strictures in the Urethra by the Caustic;* but for this we muft refer our Readers to a future Number.

A Compendious Medical Dictionary, containing an Explanation of the Terms in Anatomy, Phyfiology, Surgery, Practice of Phyfic, Materia Medica, Chemiftry, &c. By R. Hooper, M.D. 2d edit. 8vo. pr. 7s. in boards. London, 1801, Murray and Highley.

We can with great propriety recommend this Medical Dictionary, as containing a correct explanation of the terms, with their derivations, and marks to direct their proper pronunciation.

Reports on the Difeafes in London, particularly during the Years, 1796, 97, 98, 99, *and* 1800. By R. Willan, M.D. F.A.S. large 12mo. pp. 360. London, 1801, Phillips, &c.

To practitioners near the metropolis this work muft be highly interefting; and as the difeafes of the poor in all large cities are very fimilar, the Hofpital and Difpenfary practititioner in every part of

of the world will find much uſeful and important information in it. The Noſology of ſeveral of the cutaneous diſeaſes will require a reference to Dr. Willan's elaborate work on that ſubject, of which we are ſorry to obſerve, a part only is at preſent publiſhed. Dr. W. gives the following account of the hiſtory of the preſent volume.

" A part of the following Reports was inſerted in the Monthly Magazine for the years 1796, 1797, and in the Medical and Phyſical Journal for 1799. Many of the readers of thoſe periodical works having honoured with particular notice the ſtatements reſpecting Chronic Diſeaſes, as well as Epidemics, it was propoſed to me that the monthly accounts of them ſhould be reviſed, and republiſhed ſeparately, with any additional obſervations which might occur.

" With this propoſition I have complied, finding myſelf unable through a variety of engagements, to accompliſh another object which has been urged as a deſirable one;—to give, under ſome proper arrangement, an accurate hiſtory of the diſorders prevalent in or near London, from actual obſervation, without any bias from the conſideration of diſeaſes of other climates, and without a conſtant reference to the congeries of ſymptoms detailed by ſyſtematic writers.

" In the preſent work, not only the accounts of diſeaſes for 1796, 1797, and 1799, are amplified, but Reports, entirely new, with various collateral obſervations, are added for the year 1798; alſo for 1800, a year remarkable for its temperature, and for an unuſual ſeries of complaints. Any irregularities which appear in the liſts of diſeaſes will, I hope, be excuſed, a nice arrangement of them not having been the primary object. The generic diſtinctions and varieties muſt be principally referred to the Noſology of Sauvages. In forming the three claſſes of Acute, Chronic, and Periodical Diſeaſes, the uſual plan of noſologiſts has not been obſerved. All the writers on this ſubject influenced, perhaps, by the opinion of Sydenham, have not only included Intermittents under the denomination of Fever, but conſidered one of their paroxyſms as an epitome of Fevers in general, the different forms of which are ſaid to conſiſt merely of a repetition of ſuch paroxyſms more or leſs diſtinctly marked with longer or ſhorter intervals. Thoſe, however, who take the trouble to compare minutely the ſymptoms of an Ague, and of a malignant Fever from contagion, will find that the primary appearances, the courſe, and criſis of the two diſeaſes are as different as their exciting cauſes; and that no more analogy ſubſiſts between them than between the Small-pox, Eryſipelas, Rheumatiſm, and internal Inflammation. I have, from cloſe attention, been ſo much impreſſed with the difference, as to think that intermittents ſhould be wholly disjoined from every diſorder propagated by infection, and arranged in a ſeparate claſs. With reſpect to the claſſes under which the diſeaſes are put down in the following pages, it may be obſerved, that,

" 1. Acute Disases are attended with diſturbance of the bodily

bodily functions, so violent and general, that unless they terminate favourably, or change their form, they must prove fatal within a short compass of time. The symptoms characterizing an acute disease at its commencement, and which have little remission during its course, are, sudden and considerable loss of strength, pain in the loins, aching of the limbs, total incapacity of attention or exertion of mind, heat of the skin, thirst, a frequent pulse, and furred tongue. These general symptoms, differently proportioned and variously modified, according to the strength, depression, or irregularity of the pulse, the state of the mind, and appearances of the tongue, form the sub-divisions and generic distinctions of febrile complaints.

"2. Chronic Diseases are of long duration, and mostly consist of uneasiness in some part or organ, and of impediment to the performance of its functions. They are usually attended with general debility, but not with violent disorder of the constitution.

"3. Periodical Diseases are characterized by a return, at stated intervals, of pain and general disorder, or fits of shivering, followed by heat of the skin, and perspiration, the whole being comprised in less than twenty-four hours. During the intervals, however, the patient is not in a state of health, but has a sallow complexion, and is affected with languor, debility, loss of appetite, &c.

"Most of the plans of nosology are exceptionable, as being formed on hypothetical principles, rather than a strict analogy between the diseases put in the same order. It is not my present view to multiply objections, nor to enlarge on this subject; I shall only observe that the disease, to which the denomination of Synochus is hereafter applied, has some affinity with the Synochus of the antients. This term is not employed by Dr. Cullen in its original sense, but to express the combination of an inflammatory with a contagious Fever. The practitioners of North Britain hastily exclude from nosology, and seem to deny, the existence of a complaint with which their station does not lead them to be acquainted.

"Erysipelas is usually ranked among the Exanthemata, though having little affinity with the other diseases arranged under the same order. The form of it entitled Erysipelas phlegmonoides, does not seem communicable by contagion: However, when the fluid contained in its vesicles is inoculated into the arm, it excites a diffuse inflammation and swelling, with a slight degree of fever. The œdematic, or gangrenous forms of Erysipelas may be combined with malignant Fever, and thus communicated from one person to another. Instances of this have occurred frequently in Hospitals, the complicated disease spreading through the whole ward. It is singular, that the Fever likewise unites itself with other complaints, and is propagated by infection under a double form. I may mention, as an instance, the combination of an ulcerated Sore-throat with malignant Fever. To this combination alone, which often occurs,

occurs, and is very contagious, the title of Angina Maligna would have been moſt properly applied. Medical writers, by not diſtinguiſhing it from the Scarlatina anginoſa, have been led into obſcurity, and made a foundation for ſome needleſs controverſies. I may here alſo refer to the obſervations made on the complication of puerperal and malignant Fever, which has ſome analogy with the caſes above ſtated.

" The term Hectica is uſed in the ſignification given to it by the Greek phyſicians; among whom it was not conſidered merely as a ſecondary complaint, depending on internal ſuppuration, or any local defect, but as ariſing from a failure of ſtrength in old age, from an exhauſted ſtate of conſtitution, occaſioned by fatigue, long faſting, anxiety, or loſs of ſleep; and ſometimes as a ſequel of Cauſos or other Fevers. They remark farther, that the Hectica often appears at firſt like an Ephemera, that it is always aggravated after food, that its duration is indefinite, and that it often terminates in a maraſmus. All the ſpecies of Hectic are characterized by the recurrence every twenty-four hours, or ſometimes every twelve hours, of heat of the ſkin, after ſlight chillineſs, with a circumſcribed fluſh of the cheeks, an increaſed velocity of the pulſe, and violent perſpirations towards morning.—In infancy, childhood, youth, and old age, Hectic takes place, without any local affection, from changes in the conſtitution, connected with the different ſtages of human life. A ſimilar ſtate of diſorder is often produced in perſons of the middle age, when the conſtitutional vigour firſt appears to decline, not reſiſting as uſual the operation of cold, fatigue, and other occaſional cauſes. This ſtate is moſtly accompanied with aphthous ulcerations of the tongue and fauces, and a large ſecretion of frothy phlegm. Under this head alſo muſt be ranked the Febris aphthoſa, or Hectica aphthoſa, often put down in the ſucceeding liſts. It commences with violent and repeated ſhiverings, ſucceeded by fluſhes of heat; with pains of the head, neck, and limbs; roughneſs of the throat; a dark redneſs and enlargement of the papillæ of the tongue; likewiſe an enlargement of the veins of the uvula, tonſils, &c. The formation of aphthæ is immediately followed by a dryneſs of the tongue, clammineſs of the mouth, nauſea, hiccough, heat in the ſtomach, which is increaſed by medicines, wine, or food, taken warm. A Diarrhœa ſupervenes, in which the ſtools are of a dark brown colour, and often ſtreaked with blood. The urine is at firſt clear, but has afterwards a curdly pink ſediment, as in other hectic caſes. There is uſually pain and deafneſs in one ear, with great pain and tenderneſs in the ſoles of the feet. A circumſcribed redneſs appears on the cheeks towards evening, attended with a quick pulſe, heat of the ſkin, ſlight delirium, and reſtleſſneſs. During the day the patient is languid and heavy, and ſometimes thirſty, with but little appetite. After the tongue, fauces, &c. have been healed, the Aphthous ulcerations return again, with internal heat, general uneaſineſs, and the ſame train of ſymptoms as at firſt. By frequent relapſes of this kind, the patient is often reduced to an

extreme

extreme degree of debility and emaciation; and the whole duration of the complaint is from five to twelve weeks. The cafes of Hectic, put down in the laft Report for the year 1800, were moftly of the kind here defcribed. An account of this complaint was, by miftake, omitted in its proper place.

"In the lifts of difeafes prefixed to the Reports, two-thirds of the cafes occurred among the lower claffes of people, moftly patients of the Public Difpenfary, near Temple Bar: the remaining third was the refult of private practice in the upper ranks of fociety. The increafed number of cafes put down for the laft two years muft be in a great meafure referred to the flourifhing ftate of the Difpenfary, by means of which the medical attendants became more fully acquainted with the difeafes of the diftrict; a diftrict extending from Smithfield and St. Paul's to St. Martin's Lane and Tottenham Court Road.

"A comparative view of the Bills of Mortality, at different periods, and a diary of the weather, are given at the end of the book, as neceffary appendages to a work of this kind. The Meteorological Journal, taken from the Philofophical Tranfactions, was kept at the apartments of the Royal Society. It is to be noticed, that the quickfilver in the bafon of the barometer is 81 feet above the level of low water fpring-tides at Somerfet-Houfe."

The obfervations interfperfed through the work are every where judicious and important, and the neceffary tables and indices are not omitted.

An Introduction to a Course of Lectures on the Operations of Surgery; by T. Chevalier, A.M. &c. 8vo. pp. 58. London, 1801, Bagfter, Callow, &c.

We advife every young man who wifhes to become a refpectable furgeon, to read this lecture more than once. It embraces a concife view of the following fubjects, viz. The natural endowments, acquired preparatory knowledge, neceffity of anatomical knowledge, phyfiology, appearances of difeafe, juft reafoning, remedies, operations on the dead and living body. On this part of the duty of a good furgeon, Mr. C. points out a number of confiderations refpecting the circumftances of the patient; the inftruments, unforefeen accidents during an operation, general rules for conducting an operation, the after treatment, and fupervening fever. Mr. C. concludes with inculcating the neceffity of induftry and diligence, from the commencement of his ftudies to the end of a furgeon's profeffional labours. As a fpecimen of Mr. C's ftile and manner, we fhall prefent our readers with his obfervations on what regards the patient who is to undergo an operation.

"Having faid fo much on thofe things which fhould be attended to by a furgeon refpecting his own qualifications, let us now confider what is neceffary for him to regard refpecting his patient.

"Before undertaking any important operation feveral things are to

to be confidered. Thefe have been briefly expreffed in the following Latin verfe, which our forefathers have handed down to us:

Quis, quid, ubi, quibus auxiliis, cur, quomodo, quando.

"The ftate or condition of the patient is a matter of great importance, efpecially in thofe operations which are rendered neceffary by previous difeafe, and are not fuddenly required by ferious accidents. It is proper efpecially to attend to his age, conftitution, and to the prefent ftate of his general health; whether he be ftrong or debilitated, irritable and low; whether he appear fully equal to the operation, or whether there be any probability of his dying fooner in confequence of it.

"With regard to the difeafe itfelf, not only its nature is to be taken into the account, but alfo its particular fituation; the length of time it has continued, and whether it be fimple or accompanied with any peculiar circumftances which render a difference in the operation, or in the treatment, neceffary.

"Why the operation fhould be performed is another confideration. Is it abfolutely neceffary? Is there any rifk incurred by it? And if there be, Is the advantage expected fully equal to that rifk? and is the probability of fuccefs fufficient to juftify the expofure to it?

"In what is the operation itfelf to confift? and in what manner may it be moft advantageoufly executed? By what inftruments? With what dreffing and bandage? Is any preparation by medicine needful? What attendants will be required to do all that is to be done, without confufion and embarraffment?

"What fituation is moft proper? On a bed, a table, or a chair? How fhould the patient and the operator be placed with refpect to each other, and with refpect to the light? And to what fituation fhould the patient be removed afterward, and that he may be kept quiet, and under circumftances the moft favourable to fuccefs?

"When fhould the operation be done? Is it neceffary immediately, or how long may it be fafely delayed; and what advantages are to be gained by delaying it, or what by performing it early?

"Let it not be thought that by confidering thefe queftions, an operator muft become hefitating, timid, or unfettled. By no means. This can only happen to weaker minds. He who is habituated to reflect on thefe points with care, will not be on that account lefs prompt, bold, or firm, where promptitude, boldnefs, and firmnefs are required. The faculty of confidering and judging, though complex and numerous in its operations, is comparatively eafy when fully attained. Its different fteps pafs through the mind with wonderful rapidity. Like a new language, it confifts of many parts, many words, and many idioms, which muft firft be learned by much application, pains, and practice; but when it is once acquired, the ufe of it is as eafy as it is agreeable and ufeful.

"Suppofing then an operation to be clearly indicated, and the period proper for performing it fufficiently evident, the next thing neceffary

neceſſary is to prepare the mind of the patient, and to communicate to him the opinion that is formed on his caſe, with ſufficient delicacy, and yet with firmneſs. Let it be conſidered that the patient is an human being, poſſeſſed of the faculty of reaſon, alive to the ſenſe of pain, who has the greateſt burden of the caſe to bear, and demands all that tenderneſs from the ſurgeon which the ſurgeon would himſelf deſire in like circumſtances. If therefore the patient ſhould chance to be heſitating and irreſolute, if at the ſame time he ſhould be intelligent and judicious, the nature of the caſe may as far as poſſible be explained to him, and he may be reaſoned with reſpecting the neceſſity and urgency of the operation. But in reaſoning with a patient on ſuch a ſubject, the ſurgeon, who before has weighed all the circumſtances of the caſe, muſt not waver to the caprices of his patient, nor appear as though he were in doubt, merely becauſe his patient is ſo. Having once clearly, and on mature judgment, ſtated his opinion, unleſs any thing turn up really to demand a reconſideration of it, he will only diminiſh the reſpect and confidence which ought to be repoſed in him, by appearing over candid and pliable.

" But as all human judgment is liable to error, it is ſeldom proper, eſpecially in dangerous or complicated caſes, to refuſe a conſultation with any perſon of fair character and approved abilities. In moſt caſes, before any of the more ſerious operations, particularly when the patient is a perſon of rank, or of large connections in life, two opinions are more ſatisfactory than one. The blame which illiberal and uninformed people are always ready to throw on the want of ſucceſs, and the ſuſpicions which may ſometimes ariſe in the minds of perſons of a more honourable character, who may hear the caſe but imperfectly detailed, and yet be aſked for their opinion, will be more effectually precluded by the concurrence of two perſons, than by the ſingle judgment of one; eſpecially if he be young, comparatively of but little experience, or but little known.

" In peruſing the works of ſome of the older ſurgeons, one is almoſt frightened to ſee the load of inſtruments they have delineated; and can ſcarcely help ſighing over the miſerable patients who were ſo unfortunate as to be ſcrewed, and bored, and mangled, with what look more like machines for torture than inſtruments of relief. No doubt, in many of their contrivances, they totally loſt ſight of the difference between a dead and a living body, and reaſoned like carpenters, rather than ſurgeons. They were alſo too fond of parade, and a pompous appearance. If a knife were not crooked, and its handle carved, and its caſe of a certain formal make, they would almoſt have diſdained to uſe it. But " the more ſimple our inſtruments are, the better. " Our fingers are our firſt and principal inſtruments; and that " capacity and knowledge by which they are to be guided, " is the univerſal inſtrument, without which all the reſt will " be uſeleſs."

" Sometimes during the performance of an operation, accidents occur,

occur, which greatly try the firmneſs, patience, and ability of the ſurgeon. The diviſion of a large artery unexpectedly, or the diſcovery of new circumſtances in the diſeaſe, tend naturally to confuſe and agitate the mind. But at the moment when theſe things occur, he ſhould endeavour to recollect that time is not now to be waſted by regretting what is paſt, or thinking how it might have been avoided—All that will be proper afterward; but now, he muſt promptly and at once conſider what is actually the caſe, juſt as if he were then firſt called to it, and act according to the preſent exigency. In this power of ſuddenly turning the mind off from the former appearance of the caſe to the preſent, juſt as it would be turned to the caſe of another patient who might preſent himſelf, conſiſts much of that ſkill and ſelf-poſſeſſion, which has uſually diſtinguiſhed great operators. It is ſaid of that moſt accompliſhed admiral, Sir Francis Drake, who experienced the greateſt reverſes and difficulties in his profeſſion, perhaps, of any man on record, that when thrown into a new and perplexed ſituation, his mind immediately, and almoſt inſtinctively, went to work, contriving how to extricate himſelf from it; and that he was never heard on ſuch occaſions to ſpend a moment in reflecting on what was paſt, or ſpeculating on what might come, but was at once, inſtantaneouſly, as it were, and wholly employed in thinking what was to be done under the exiſting circumſtances, juſt as though he had expected them to happen. Such a diſpoſition I would recommend every ſurgeon to cultivate; but if he would ſucceed in this attempt, he muſt remember, it can only reſult from a thorough knowledge of his profeſſion, and is not to be the reward of ignorance, or raſhneſs."

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL

INTELLIGENCE.

Prof. Harles relates in Hufeland's Journal, (vol. ix.) a remarkable caſe of morbus maculoſus hæmorrhagicus, attended with dropſy; but as the whole hiſtory of it is too long to be inſerted in this Journal, we ſhall content ourſelves in communicating the moſt eſſential reſults the Profeſſor has adjoined to this hiſtory, which are as follow: 1. The morbus maculoſus hæmorrhagicus and the chronical petechiæ, or petechiæ ſine febre, are, both with reſpect to their form and nature, one and the ſame diſeaſe, as appears from the deſcription of the caſes of theſe diſeaſes given by different authors. 2. The chronical petechiæ and the petechial fever, or the malignant petechiæ, eſſentially differ from each other, and only agree ſomewhat in the external appearance of the ſpots. The acute or malignant petechiæ are diſtinguiſhed from the chronical ones by being attended with a fever of the typhus kind, or ſometimes being a high degree of ſynochus and with ſymptoms evidently ſhowing

ing a ſtatus nervoſus, and by being moſtly epidemic. Both diſeaſes however, have a great ſimilarity in the ſpots, though in the chronical petechiæ, vibices, ecchymoſes, and other irregular ſpots, are frequently remarked, but which ſeldom occur in the petechial fever. 3. The real ſcurvy and the chronical petechiæ are two diſeaſes eſſentially different from one another. The ſea-ſcurvy is attended with a greater debility of the muſcular fibre, want of digeſtion, pains in all the muſcles, difficult breathing, ſwelling and bleeding of the gums, &c. The ſpots are more of a violet, and ſometimes of a yellowiſh colour, and in its laſt ſtage hæmorrhages and gangrene of the lungs come on; malignant ulcers are alſo frequently obſerved, &c. 4. All theſe diſeaſes agree in having their origin in a particular morbid ſtate of the venous blood in the ſmaller cutaneous veſſels; and they ſeem to prove that there probably exiſt humoral diſeaſes. This, however, Mr. Harles intends to ſhow more extenſively in a publication that is ſhortly to appear "In the Apology for Humoral Diſeaſes," with which we ſhall not fail to acquaint our readers more fully as ſoon as it comes to our hands.

Mr. Brefeld has made ſome remarks on the uſe of oils, which have ſometimes been applied with ſucceſs in arthritic complaints. In order to explain their action, he conceives the following idea of the nature of gout. He ſtates, that the gout originates in a corruption of the ſynovial liquor, which is probably a rancidity of it, as, according to chemical analyſis, the ſynovial liquor ſeems to poſſeſs the properties of groſs oils, and is conſequently expoſed to the ſame chemical laws. For curing the gout, it is chiefly requiſite to correct the corruption of the ſynovial liquor, and to prevent its becoming any more rancid; the firſt of which is effected by the groſs oils, by involving the acrimony of it, and rendering it thereby more fit for being abſorbed by the lymphatic veſſels, and removed from the body by the purifying organs. Though this may be obtained, the defect of that liquor replaced, and the increaſed action in the ſolidum vivum diminiſhed by the application of groſs oils, yet there are caſes in which corroborant remedies are required for preventing the rancidity of the ſynovial liquor. Mr. Brefeld relates a caſe of a young man who was cured of the gout, attended with a cough, by taking ſeveral times a day a ſpoon full of ſweet oil, and by frictions of ſweet oil and camphor applied between the ſhoulders.

The ſame gentleman recommends waſhing of the belly with cold water, as of great avail in dyſentery. For, ſays he, thereby the ſolid parts are not only ſtrengthened, and the increaſed tendency of the fluids to corruption greatly counteracted, but it likewiſe excites motions by which any obſtructions are removed, the inflammatory and eryſipelatous ſtate of the bowels, and the topical ſenſibility of the affected parts, in a great meaſure, diminiſhed. He found it of good effect in a dyſenteric epidemy, to drink cold

water;

water; and frequently, when opiates and antimonials were without advantage, cold water, repeatedly drank, diminiſhed the pains in a ſhort time, and rendered the ſtools feculent: When the patients were much debilitated, it was mixed with a little wine.

Citizen LASSUS relates an intereſting caſe of the deleterious effects of opium. A woman, ſixty years of age, who had been frequently attacked by fits of melancholy, ſwallowed about midnight 36 grains of opium. Five or ſix hours after, ſhe was found to be faſt aſleep, her reſpiration rattling like that of an apoplectic perſon. She recovered, however, for a few moments, ſo as to be able to inform thoſe who attended her, of the quantity of opium ſhe had taken. Ipecacuanha was adminiſtered, but without producing vomiting; after which a few table ſpoons full of vinegar were given to her, which ſhe ſwallowed with much difficulty. It was at this time that Cit. Laſſus ſaw her. She was not ſenſible of what was paſſing around her, and not the leaſt ſign of feeling was left. The reſpiration was attended with noiſe and difficulty, the ſkin moiſt, the pulſe quick, and the pupils of both eyes were conſiderably dilated; the joints were flexible, and every muſcle in a ſtate of relaxation. She died about eleven hours after ſhe had taken the opium.

On diſſecting the body, all the inner ſuperficies of the ſtomach was found inflamed, and likewiſe eroded in ſeveral parts. The inflammation extended itſelf through all the ſmall inteſtines in which large gangrenous ſpots of a greeniſh colour were obſerved. The cavity of the ſtomach contained about ſix table ſpoons full of a turbid liquor of a reddiſh colour, conſiſting of vinegar, ipecacuanha, of the gaſtric liquor, and probably of opium, the laſt being ſo perfectly diſſolved that not the ſmalleſt particle could be traced in it. The ſmall inteſtines were much relaxed, but the cœcum and colon inflated; the reſt of the inteſtines were in a ſound ſtate. There was nothing preternatural found in the brain; and the veins were neither filled with too much blood, nor did the ventricles of the brain contain ſerum; in ſhort, the deleterious effects were confined to the ſtomach and ſmall inteſtines. It appears, therefore, as the author remarks, 1. That opium, when taken in a great quantity, does not cauſe apoplexy, i. e. it produces no congeſtions of the blood in the brain; 2. That the ſooner it is diſſolved in the ſtomach, the ſooner it occaſions, by its irritation, an inflammation which at laſt ends in gangrene; 3. That vegetable acids, which have been ſo much praiſed as antidotes, have no effect at all, unleſs the opium has been taken in ſmall doſes.

Cit. SAUCEROTTE communicates, in the ſame work, a very uncommon caſe of a preternatural ſwelling and growth of the bones. A man of middle ſize, in the 35th year of his age, obſerved that all the bones of his body, the teeth excepted, were growing thicker by degrees, but without increaſing in length, and continued advancing till they had reached to double their natural thickneſs. The muſcles and fleſhy parts became relaxed and ſoft, but without

ſeemingly to decreaſe in ſize; the bones of the ſkull had ſo much increaſed, that the head was of a prodigious appearance, and the eyes protuberated from the thickneſs of the bones of the orbita; the ribs touched one another, and the ſternum, clavicula, and the ſcapula were uncommonly prominent; the flexibility of the joints was much impeded, and all the motions went on with difficulty. While the bones were thus increaſing, the patient became incapable of moving himſelf; he breathed with much trouble and difficulty; the pulſe was hardly to be felt; he ſuffered rheumatic pains in every part; and his urine was whitiſh with a ſtrong ſediment. After ſix years the bones ceaſed to grow, the pains diminiſhed, and the reſpiration became more free. In the ſeventh year, however, he died, after having ſuffered, about three months, the ſame complaints which he experienced during the growth of the bones. It is much to be regretted, that it was not permitted to open the body.

Cit. Boucher, in a memoir read before *la Societé d'Emulation at Abbeville*, has given ſome obſervations on elm-trees. Theſe trees are frequently attacked by ulcers, from which, at length, a great number of them periſh. *Du Hamel* had already endeavoured to find out the cauſe of this diſeaſe, and aſcribed it to a plethora of the ſap, an opinion which Cit. Boucher has confirmed by numerous experiments. He propoſes at the ſame time a remedy, which he ſucceſsfully applied to it. He obſerved that the local ulcer never attacked the trees on their north-ſide, but always on the ſouth ſide. It acts principally on trees planted in a boggy ſoil, and along the ſide of rivers. Its ſeat is generally not far from the ground. This ulcer, owing to a ſuperabundant ſap, differs from a ſimilar one, deſcribed in *Journal d'Hiſtoire Naturelle, No.* 5, 1789, as in this the liquor expoſed to the air, ſoon takes the conſiſtency of a gum, and has the flavour of ſugar.—The remedy conſiſts in boring every tree attacked by the diſeaſe, at the ulcer itſelf; and in applying a tube in the hole, occaſioned by the borer, penetrating about nine lines in depth. The ſound trees, which are alſo bored, afford no liquor, whereas thoſe that are ulcerated yield it in great abundance, increaſing particularly in fine weather, and when the wound is expoſed to the ſouth. Stormy weather and great winds ſtop the effuſion. In this manner, he remarks that the ulcers dry and heal in 48 hours. It is probable, that ſuch a terebration, tried on other vegetables, and particularly on fruit trees, will produce the ſame effects. *Pliny, Columella*, and *Palladius*, have already mentioned this expedient being employed by the ancients, which, however, has not been practiſed for many years.—Cit. Boucher concludes by remarking, that this tree is a native of Europe, and has not been lately introduced into France, as is commonly ſuppoſed; but the writings of the ancients prove, that it exiſted there long ago.—The chemical analyſis which he made of the ſap, ſhewed that it contained a conſiderable quantity of acetite of potaſh, a little acetite of lime, a certain quantity of vegetable or muco-ſaccharine matter, and a

conſiderable

considerable proportion of muriate of lime; slight traces of sulphate and muriate of potash were likewise perceived.

A Translation of Mr. BAUDELOQUE's Researches and Reflections on the Cesærean Operation, is in the press; to which will be added a Preface, Notes, and an Appendix, with six engravings, by JOHN HULL, M. D. Manchester.

A popular Medical Work, printed in a full and compact manner, will speedily make its appearance from the experienced pen of Dr. ALEXANDER THOMSON. It will contain all the recent discoveries in the Practice of Physic, and a greater variety of matter than in any previous work of the same description.

Several Physicians and Surgeons, in London, have associated together for the purpose of writing An Extensive MEDICAL ENCYCLOPÆDIA; or, An Entire Course of the Modern Practice of Physic and Surgery; including the Outlines of Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Pathology, Nosology, Therapeutics, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Botany, and Medical Philosophy; with references to the most approved Authors, and an explanation of technical terms; arranged alphabetically, and illustrated by numerous engravings. The whole work will be comprehended in two or three quarto volumes, forming a complete MEDICAL LIBRARY; and the names of the different Practitioners engaged in this undertaking are to be in the Prospectus, which will speedily appear. We understand, that it is intended to annex the signature of each writer to his own articles, after the manner of the French Encyclopædia; and that communications for the Editor may be addressed to any of the following booksellers, viz. Messrs. Longman and Rees, Pater-Noster Row; Cadell and Davies, Strand; Murray and Highley, Fleet Street; Vernor and Hood, Poultry; or Mr. Cuthell, Middle Row, Holborn.

Dr. BATTY will begin his Summer Course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, on Monday the 8th of June, at half past ten o'clock in the morning.

Dr. REES purposes to commence his Summer Course of Lectures on Midwifery, on the 1st of June next: For particulars, enquire at his house, No. 11, Leicester Street, Leicester Square.

Mr. CARPUE will commence his Summer Course of Anatomical Lectures, on Monday, the 8th of June, at his house, No. 44, Leicester Square. Dissecting will be continued under certain regulations. Particulars may be known by applying as above.

To the EDITORS.

Gentlemen,

As I am convinced it is your wish, that the interesting publication under your management should be an impartial register of all useful information, I assure myself of your readiness in admitting the following observations, occasioned by an account that

that appeared in the Medical Journal of February laſt, of an artificial leg, invented by Mr. Potts.

Not having ſeen the inſtrument there recommended, I ſhall not of courſe attempt to call in queſtion its merits. The whole of my intention is, to point out an error Mr. Potts has fallen into, by aſſerting, that till the appearance of his invention, no artificial leg had been produced, in which the perſon uſing it was not obliged to make a ſemicircular motion with it in walking. Now, the following extract from Mr. Mann's deſcription of his patent leg, which I take the liberty of incloſing, will fully prove the miſtake. Mr. P. lies under. "Mr. Mann reſerves it for a perſonal conference with thoſe who may apply, to enter into a detail of particulars, contenting himſelf with aſſerting, that the external appearance of the artificial leg to be ſupplied under the ſanction of this patent, cannot be diſcriminated from the natural, and that the materials are at once light and durable; that it may be applied or taken off in a few moments, without the leaſt pain or trouble to the wearer; that the various circumſtances of ungracefulneſs, rigidity, and inconvenience, ſo viſible in other adſcititious members, are in this obviated; that, as it contains an anatomical and mechanical analogy to the ſeveral articulations to the knee, toes, and foot, and exerciſes all their functions per ſe, merely by being walked on, ſo in ſitting, riding, or ſtanding, it inſtantaneouſly accommodates itſelf to every flexure, extenſion, elevation, and attitude of the natural leg and foot, without any aid from the hand of the wearer, or other extrinſic application."

It is evident, therefore, that an artificial leg, poſſeſſing all the principal qualities aſcribed by Mr. P. to his invention, particularly the flexion of the knee-joint in walking, by which ſemicircular motion is avoided, and the ſelf-acting power by which it accommodates itſelf to almoſt any natural motion without any aſſiſtance from the hands, was ſeveral years ſince preſented to the public by Mr. Mann, of Bradford in Yorkſhire; and that his machine has been, and is conſidered worthy their attention, the following recommendation will teſtify.

"The public are hereby certified, that we think Mr. Mann's invention not only highly intereſting to all who have had the misfortune to loſe a leg, but worthy of the patronage of any profeſſional gentleman.

John Hunter, Surgeon General to his Majeſty's Forces.
T. Keate, Surgeon to his Majeſty's Royal Hoſpital, Chelſea.

John Gunning, Maſter
W. Grindall, Warden
W. Lucas, Warden
Jos. Warner, Aſſiſtant
Henry Wadron, Aſſiſtant
Edmund Pitts, Aſſiſtant
James Patch, Aſſiſtant
W. Cooper, Aſſiſtant
} of the Corporation of Surgeons, London.

G. Chandler,

G. CHANDLER,
JOHN BIRCH,
HENRY CLINE, } Surgeons to St. Thomas's Hospital.
W. HEY, Surgeon to the Infirmary, Leeds.
CHARLES WHITE, F.R.S. Surgeon to the Infirmary, Manchester."

On the comparative merits of the two inventions, experience will best determine, and to that test I wish to commit their respective claims; but in justice to Mr. Mann, I think it fair to assert his title to the credit of having *first* discovered, and introduced to public notice, an instrument so capable of alleviating one of the greatest calamities incident to humanity.

I am, yours, &c.

April 11, 1801. T. R. REID, Surgeon, Chelsea.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received many useful and friendly hints from some of our Correspondents, but are prevented from making the use we wish of them, on account of their being anonymous. The only occasion, as we think, on which a Gentleman can find it necessary to write anonymously, is when he is desirous of communicating unsuccessful or dangerous practice; and even in such cases, we also think, a private note should be addressed to one of the Editors, containing the real name. We assure "A Reader and Contributor," *that we never will, knowingly, admit the Communications of any* "common advertising Quack;" *and if it has ever been done, it was inadvertently. If this Gentleman had favoured us with his name, we could have explained some things in his letter to his satisfaction.*

Mr. Bailey's Communication with the Engraving, shall appear in our next.

Advertisement to the Medical World.

THE Proprietors of the periodical work, entitled THE LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW and MAGAZINE, having determined in future to confine the object of that work *solely* to a full and comprehensive analysis of NEW MEDICAL BOOKS, domestic and foreign; and having agreed to recommend their friendly Correspondents to transmit their future communications to the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL, the Editors of the latter work announce this new and improved arrangement with much satisfaction, and earnestly invite the Correspondents of the London Medical Review and Magazine to honour them with their communications; assuring them, that they will on all occasions be treated with due respect and distinction.

The

The Editors of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL take this opportunity to repeat their acknowledgements to the medical world, for the continued and increaſed ſupport with which their exertions have been attended; and as THE MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL will continue to be carried on *preciſely upon the ſame plan, and with the ſame ſpirit as heretofore,* the Editors venture to promiſe their readers a conſiderable addition to the value of this work, from the acquiſition of the correſpondence which has hitherto been peculiar to the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW and MAGAZINE.

This laſt mentioned work will in future be publiſhed as uſual, on the firſt day of every month, under the title of the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW, and will recommend itſelf to a continuance of the patronage it has been honoured with, by the copiouſneſs and the independence of its criticiſms on every new publication which is connected with the ſtudies or purſuits of medical men. The plan of this work being, therefore, wholly different from that of the Medical and Phyſical Journal, the profeſſional reader will be able to indulge his peculiar views in the purchaſe of a periodical medical work, at half the previous expence. Thoſe who are in queſt of new facts, obſervations, experiments, and caſes, will conſult the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL, in which they will alſo meet with a Retroſpect neceſſarily brief, of all the novelties in medical literature; and thoſe who would enter more at large into the critical diſcuſſion and hiſtory of the practice of medicine, and its collateral ſciences, will probably feel a ſtrong intereſt in the peruſal of the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW. Many gentlemen, who, not regarding the expence, determine to gratify themſelves by reading both works, will have the advantage, in conſequence of this arrangement, of not purchaſing the ſame intelligence twice over. In every point of view, the Editors of both works conſider the arrangement they have adopted as matter of congratulation to their friends and correſpondents, and they hope the public at large will be of the ſame opinion.

London, April 25, 1801.